

a different light, because he (Mr. Lavoie) had changed his politics. He (Mr. Casgrain) recollected that two employés of the late Government had worked hard against him in his own county, and they were not paid for this service.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: You objected to it did you not ?

MR. CASGRAIN: I did not approve of it at the time. It was against me. I would not like to have public officers interfere in the elections in any county on either side. If Mr. Lavoie helped me I would like to have his assistance, but I would never ask for it.

MR. MITCHELL said that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) was very ungenerous when he referred to the appointment of Mr. Lavoie, and attempted to create the impression that this officer had changed his politics since he was appointed. This was not the case. He (Mr. Mitchell) was responsible for this appointment, which was made while he sat in the Senate. It was at the special request of Mr. Letellier de St. Just, then a Senator, that he (Mr. Mitchell) induced his hon. friend from Charlevoix (Mr. Langevin) to consent to this appointment. Mr. Letellier had mentioned the fact that Mr. Lavoie was not a Conservative, but he had said that he did not want to know what a man's politics were. He thought that these matters should be decided without reference to political matters. It was stated that Mr. Lavoie was a good and efficient medical officer, having some knowledge of the sea. He was recommended as a capable candidate, and it was at the special request of Mr. Letellier that he got the appointment, for which he had since received very little thanks. As far as he knew, Mr. Lavoie had performed his functions well, although he had frequently heard that this officer had taken a very warm interest against the party with which he (Mr. Mitchell) had been associated. It did not come with a good grace from the friends of Mr. Letellier and Mr. Lavoie, to make this charge. Mr. Lavoie's politics were well known to be *Rouge* at the time of his appointment, as the hon. member for Charlevoix knows. Perhaps it

MR. CASGRAIN.

would have been just as well if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) had not taunted the right hon. member for Kingston with finding fault with one of his nominees.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH said he thought he could contradict the statement that the *Lady Head* had been used for political purposes last year, at the election in Gaspé county. He recollected distinctly that the facts were as follows: this vessel was going to the Magdalen Islands, and application was made to know whether Mr. Flynn could pass over to the island in her. He had telegraphed to say that this could be done, and also that Dr. Fortin, Mr. Flynn's opponent, should have the same privilege. He had directed the captain to communicate this to Dr. Fortin, and this was all he knew about the matter.

MR. LANGEVIN said he was informed at the time, on good authority, that the vessel was not going to the Magdalen Islands on public business, but that she went there merely to serve the interests of Mr. Flynn. When Dr. Fortin was invited to go also, it was well known that he could not comply; and, in fact, he had not gone in this vessel.

MR. MACKENZIE said that application was made to learn whether the vessel could be delayed, which was refused. Permission was given Mr. Flynn to visit the Magdalen Islands simply because there were no possible means of getting over to the Islands from the place where Mr. Flynn was, unless a stray vessel proceeded in that direction. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Langevin) was, therefore, quite incorrect in his statement. If hon. gentlemen opposite wished to raise a discussion about the use of vessels for political purposes, he dared say that they could meet the case of these hon. gentlemen.

MR. LANGEVIN said that this line of argument would not do. They had the case before them, and it should be discussed. There was no need of throwing out threats about other cases. They held that this was an improper use of public money.

MR. MACKENZIE said he had a perfect recollection of the telegram