

Mr. PELLETIER. The case is that of the postmaster at East Roman Valley.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Do it now.

Mr. PELLETIER. Do these hon. gentlemen wish me to go to the department now and get the files? I do not know how it is in Red Deer, but in Ottawa the department is closed at five o'clock. But I have given the name of the post office—that of East Roman Valley.

Mr. SINCLAIR. That is the only official with whose dismissal I had anything to do during the eight years I have been in this House. If the Postmaster-General will bring down all the papers, he will find that there was proof of the statements made. I hope he will be fair enough to bring the whole record, including the declarations and affidavits. He will find that the action was taken, not on what I said, but on the proof that was given.

Mr. PELLETIER. The hon. gentleman asked for the dismissal of the postmaster, and a petition was filed, and was referred to him, and the hon. gentleman wrote that he had been informed that the official had done this or that, and on his letter the man's head was cut off.

Mr. CLEMENTS. I have not hitherto taken part in this debate of dismissals, but I have been compelled to listen to what seems to me an idle, and useless discussion intended to be in the interest of hon. gentlemen opposite. I might, if I chose, give cases of dismissal by the late government in the riding of West Kent, which I had, at one time, the honour of representing in this House. Dismissals were made in that riding, not by the dozen but forty or fifty of them. I have in mind, particularly, one case, Mr. Dunn, the janitor of a post office. Concerning this gentleman I can give my word of honour that he had not the faintest idea of entering into politics for either side. He had a crippled son depending on him for support. Yet he was dismissed practically at a day's notice. This dismissal was made at the instance of Mr. Campbell, who formerly represented Kent. I could take up the time of the House for the next two hours in giving facts about other dismissals by hon. gentlemen opposite after their accession to power in 1896.

As representing Comox-Atlin, the first Conservative who has ever represented that constituency, I would say that the officials throughout the length and breadth of that great constituency are and were controlled by a Liberal machine. They acted as returning officers, stumped the country and used every means possible to defeat me in that riding. Yet I have shown sympathy for these officials for I know that the late government held the club over them in

many cases and compelled them to act in this way, and that they would not have acted in this way if the club had not been held over them. I have listened with disgust to our friends opposite. If they have any regard for the remaining officials throughout the different constituencies, they will discontinue this discussion. If not, I shall make many recommendations for dismissals of Liberal appointees in the great constituency of Comox-Atlin.

Mr. SINCLAIR. What is the minister's decision; will he give an investigation in the case of Mr. Sutherland?

Mr. MONK. If my hon. friend will give some good grounds for holding an investigation it will be granted.

Mr. SINCLAIR. What grounds?

Mr. MONK. I would like him to give an allegation that he has not meddled in politics and is not guilty of these offences.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Do I understand that the minister requires a letter signed by Mr. Sutherland that he has not meddled in politics or is not guilty of being an active partisan? I cannot undertake to sign a letter about him, I have not got much knowledge.

Mr. MONK. My hon. friend told me there was absolutely no ground for his dismissal. If my hon. friend has no objection to putting that on record in the department it will receive consideration.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I am informed there is no reason for his dismissal.

Mr. CHISHOLM. (Antigonish). It seems to me that the attack on the government is more severe from that side than from this. The hon. members opposite recognize that the government are weak-kneed and vacillating and have not risen to the high ideals they expressed while in opposition. What we complain of is that we cannot get anything definite from the minister or from his government. If he is going to act on the principle that to the victors belong the spoils, as hon. gentlemen opposite advocate, we would like to know that. If hon. gentlemen would say: We are going to make places for our friends wherever we can find places, and will decapitate every Liberal if we can find any excuse whatever for doing so, we are not going to be concerned about nice distinctions but we are going to take the animal by the horns and turn out a Liberal wherever there is a chance to do so and put in a Conservative. If they would say that we would know where we are at. What we object to is the professions of honesty and sympathy and fair play which hon. gentlemen opposite and the ministers make—professions