

leprosy; he cannot be anything else but a fearful Tory; that is what he is from start to finish, from Sunday morning until Saturday night.

Mr. CARVELL: We will try to make a benevolent Unionist out of him.

Mr. McKENZIE: I have never seen a benevolent Unionist yet, and until I do, I will not ask for the reconstruction of any one in that mould. I am not finding fault with Mr. Bernasconi; he thinks that nobody else is right unless he is a Tory; that is his religion; he was brought up that way. The minister might as well give up saying that patronage is abolished if he leaves matters in the hands of Mr. Bernasconi, because that gentleman will favour his old friends in the same old way. If Grits and Tories alike get this work, I do not object, but I am not satisfied that the old system should be followed while pharisaical professions with regard to the abolition of patronage are being made.

Mr. CARVELL: Mr. Bernasconi has received and will receive instructions which will convert him and make him a new man. I have no doubt that I have the power of persuasion to cause him to be converted, and that henceforth no cause for complaint will be found.

Mr. JOHN C. DOUGLAS: I agree with the member for North Cape Breton (Mr. McKenzie) that there is evidence of patronage in Mr. Bernasconi's office. For instance, the foreman of the Jamesville wharf had been a Conservative, but a few months ago, when Mr. Bernasconi had occasion to continue the work, he appointed a foreman who had acted in that capacity under the Liberals. If my information is correct, the recommendation for the latter's appointment came from the member for North Cape Breton.

Mr. CARVELL: It did not come from my department. I do not know what took place in Cape Breton; they have peculiar ways down there.

Mr. McKENZIE: The member for South Cape Breton (Mr. Douglas) is misinformed if he believes that I had anything to do with naming the gentleman who carried out the small repairs to the breakwater at Jamesville. In September last, before the present minister assumed office, and when the present Minister of Railways (Mr. Reid) was Acting Minister of Public Works, I made the statement in the House that the work was not being properly conducted—and that was when I could not possibly

hope to exercise any patronage in that connection. I was given to understand at that time by persons from that part of the country that the deficiency in the work was due to the fact that a man named McNeill, who was a good blacksmith, but knew nothing whatever about building wharves, was in charge of it. When there was talk last winter about starting the work again, Bernasconi told me that he had been asked to take on the same foreman. He admitted that this man did not know anything about building a wharf, and I said: I am not going to recommend a man; I do not know anybody in that district who is a wharf builder. He then suggested that a man named Campbell be appointed, who had been the first foreman on the work and had been originally given the position by the Tories. The member for South Cape Breton knows that not a log, a stick or a stone had been put on the foundation of this wharf in our days, and that he himself is the author—and possibly will be the finisher—of this Tory, picayune work that is going on in such a haphazard, incomplete and incompetent way. Campbell had been appointed under Tory rule, on the recommendation, I assume, of the member for South Cape Breton, who was running the machine in Victoria county at that time. For some reason, this blacksmith had been able to outdo Campbell and take the job from him—one Tory took the job from another. Campbell knew how to build a wharf, but McNeill did not. When Bernasconi suggested that Campbell be given the job, I said I did not care whether he was a Campbell or a Macdonald or what he was; that a good man should be obtained; so Bernasconi took Campbell on in connection with the small expenditure that was made last year. I had nothing whatever to do with it; he was no friend or supporter of mine and never had been.

Mr. CARVELL: A re-arrangement of the engineering services in Nova Scotia will be made in the very near future. I cannot say what will be done, because the department has not arrived at any definite decision. But I assure members of the Committee—Liberals, Conservatives, Unionists, Opposition—that if Mr. Bernasconi or anybody else cannot get along without playing the patronage game, I will move him somewhere where he will not be bothered with that sort of thing.

South Ingonish—To repair and reconstruct beach protection, \$1,900.

Mr. McKENZIE: I say the same thing about this item: I hope that care will be