

quently, the hon. gentleman assumed an air of intense indignation, and, whether right or wrong, he brought a certain charge with reference to employés of the House and Civil servants of the country. He at least congratulated the hon. gentleman on arriving at the conclusion which they had endeavoured to impress upon the late Government while they themselves were in Opposition.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said that, in the first place, he denied altogether the statement of the hon. gentleman that Mr. Tilley had acted as was represented.

MR. JONES: Mr. Tilley admitted it in this House.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said he did not believe that Mr. Tilley had admitted it.

MR. JONES: I say he did.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said he ventured to say that Mr. Tilley had never sent a communication directing and commanding, or in any way ordering these men to vote.

MR. JONES. Mr. Tilley admitted it in this House.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said that they would look this matter up. As to the action of the late Government respecting railway employés in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, his hon. friend from Charlevoix could speak. This was the old cry—"tu quoque, the late corrupt Government did so and so, and all kind of monstrosities, offended against Constitutional law and against the Independence of Parliament, and used the Civil Service machinery for the purpose of keeping their corrupt and effete Government still longer in power against the wishes of the people. But this was to be all cured and to be done away with when this Government took office. The Golden Age was to return. The country was to have purity, and the Golden Age was to be restored. No more were civil servants to work at elections. No more was the independent elector to be approached by Government influence or Civil Service influence. This country was to be restored to the age of Adam and

Eve before she ate the apple. This was the promise made to the country by hon. gentlemen opposite, but the Minister of Militia did not deny the statement made by the hon. member for Charlevoix. He did not attempt to do so; he said: "It does not rest in your mouth to bring up this kind of thing"; and yet the hon. gentleman wound up by congratulating his hon. friend from Charlevoix on his change of opinion, and on coming to the principles so long advocated by the Liberals of Canada. Yes; it was a long time advocated. Ever since he had been in Parliament they had heard charges brought that the corrupt Conservatives were corrupting the population, and that the time-honoured principles laid down by the Liberal party could only be carried out by, and would never be carried out until, the Liberal party came into power, and then all this was to be changed. But, had they made this change? The only retort that the hon. gentleman could make—he did not deny the charge, he could not deny it, he could not refute or palliate the charge—was: "You are another." This was the course taken by the hon. gentleman. And what did he say? The only fault he found in the present Government before he went into it—and this was not a fault now, of course, since the hon. gentleman had gone into it—was that the late Government had crammed the Civil Service with political friends. But, was this Government crammng the offices with political foes? Every Government selected for the Civil Service their own friends, and no one could object to it. This was done everywhere except in England, where competitive examinations had carried sway over both the Government and Opposition, and where the idea of patronage was gone altogether, save in exceptional cases; but it was always the case in that country before the era of competitive examination, and it had always been the practice in Canada. The hon. gentleman would not say that since they had come into power, any appointments they had made had not been from among their political friends. No; their political friends and supporters would not allow them to appoint political foes; and nobody would