

influences, and the natural dislike of men in charge to be brought into conflict with members of Parliament, when they feel that the sympathy of those in authority is pretty sure to be favorable to the supporters of the Ministry.

It is natural, therefore, that men should desire, under such circumstances, to get along with as little contention as possible.

The Freight Agent at St. John had charge of the Freight Department at that place, and in the performance of his duties was responsible to the Station Master.

Because Mr. Pick, the Freight Agent, was believed to hold a high position in a society supposed to have great political influence, his assistance was sought, naturally enough, by all parties seeking Parliamentary honors.

He appears to have deemed his influence sufficiently great to justify him in disregarding the instructions of his superior, or of obeying them only in such a manner as absolutely to defeat the best efforts to maintain discipline and secure the proper conduct of the Station business.

The result was, as might be expected, a continued feud, which Mr. Brydges has termed a "divided responsibility."

On several occasions I held investigations, and did the best I could to promote a better feeling and induce the Freight Agent to co-operate with his superior, but without success.

I understand sufficiently well the source of all the trouble, but I was restrained by the political phase of the matter from taking extreme measures.

I may also add, that although the Freight Agent had been repeatedly instructed not to give credit, he persisted, under one pretence and another, in returning such debts as "Freight in Store." *Why not complain?*

The Station Master, finding that he was powerless to remedy the difficulty, deemed it better to let things shape their own course, and have as little as possible to do with the Agent.

This may account for the Station Master's ignorance of the items which composed the balance of the accounts of the Freight Department at his Station, at the particular time when Mr. Brydges was there.

The accounts were correct and properly made up, except in the item of "Freight in Store," in which the debts were included.

The irregularities consisted in permitting these debts to exist for a day, and in entering them as Freight in Store, as well as in his neglecting to insist at the proper time upon the payment of the charges for demurrage.