

by the Speaker with reference to the dismissal of Mr. Gillespie. Mr. Currie warmly defended the dismissed official.

Premier Accepts Responsibility.

The Premier expressed the opinion that the hon. gentleman dared not attempt to say that he believed the story connecting the name of the Speaker with the matter to be true. Mr. Currie said it was believed in Prince Edward county.

The Premier, after a reference to the Government's action in respect to commissions of the peace, which action he warmly defended as he had done on previous occasions, said it was true that a nephew of the member for East Northumberland had been appointed to office by the Government, but the Government was proud of its act in that case. The young man appointed had served his country in South Africa and had come back from that arduous service with his constitution ruined, physically disabled in his youth. He regretted to have to call attention to it, but he was bound to ask, now that the hon. gentleman had raised this question, if he (Mr. Currie) did not know that the late Sir Oliver Mowat, Hon. Mr. Hardy and Hon. A. M. Ross had appointed their own flesh and blood to office, and the last Premier prior to his (Mr. Whitney's) accession to office had done the same. He wanted to know whether the hon. gentleman could say the same of him. Continuing, the Premier said he accepted the responsibility of examining into the question, looking into the facts and deciding to do what was done in the case of Sheriff Gillespie without investigation. The Premier went over the charges of activity in elections against Mr. Gillespie, which, he declared, were absolutely correct. He added that two of the Superior Court Judges of the Province had refused to allow the dismissed official to escort them to and from the court house. "There has been a suggestion in the press and out of it," the Premier continued, "that Mr. Whitney has been constrained against his will to dismiss officials. There has never been a dismissal that did not receive my active endorsement, and the responsibility is first and foremost upon me, and not upon my colleagues. I spurn any such sympathy received from time to time from different sources." No dismissal, the Premier said, had taken place that would not be repeated if the opportunity afforded itself again, so careful had the Government been to see that no such action was taken without proper reason. This had been so much the case that many friends of the Government declared they had not gone far enough. He would certainly bring down any papers relating to the matter.