Dominion Parliament

The Plebiscite-Hon. S. Fisher Defends the Government's

He Denies Charges of Fraudulent Voting in Quebec -- The Address.

Ottawa, April 14.-In the House yesterday the Hon. Sydney A. Fisher, the member for Brome, made a two hours' speech in, which he confined himself in the charges which have been preferred against the administration in that connection by Conservative members. Later in the evening the Conservative amendment to the address was moved and an amendment to the amendment, expressing confidence in the government

The Minister of Agriculture referred in opening to the charges which had been brought against him of neglect in attendance upon the sittings of the House. He would only say that in his absence he had the very best of company. Indeed, it was worthy of remark that on the occasion of the recent speech of the ex-Minister of Justice, Sir Hibbert Tupper, he had been favored by an attendance of not more than twelve or fifteen of his own followers. His friends were not sufficiently interested in the subject matter of his lengthy address to care to remain in the House and listen. Brockville By-Election,

The other day the ex-Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Foster, went down to Brockville and fired the first gun of the Conservative party in the by-election which is now going on there. Mr. Fisher read from a Montreal daily a report of that speech in which it was stated that there had been no word of reference to the Yukon charges which it took Sir Hibbert Tupper six hours to elaborate in the House, nor was the name of a Tupper mentioned in any way by any or

Mr. Foster-I am going to take the earliest opportunity to remedy that defect in my speech. It was due to my not having more than about forty-five minutes in which to speak.

The Minister of Agriculture-My honorable friend, I suppose, wanted to emulate his former colleague and friend. He wanted six hours to elaborate those charges. But the honorable member's party press are telling the people of this country that these Yukon charges are the greatest blot upon the present administration of Canada, yet in threequarters of an hour, the first opportunity which he had to strike the keynote of their accusations against this governthose charges and that the statement in this newspaper is correct the honorable gentleman's very lame excuse is abundant proof. He is convicted of one of pathy with those charges or he feels that the speech of the Minister of the Interior so completely disposed of them that it was not safe for the Conservative party

Mr Foster-No but you have so many sins that it is not easy to deal with them | the opposition, the Minister of Agricul-The Minister of Agriculture-The hon-

reason for what he has done. Continuing, the Minister of Agricullast; being a full endorsation of the

The gentlemen opposite had been worrying themselves a good deal concerning certain credit which they thought ought to be given the late government for certain reforms in the interests of the agriculturists of Canada. They had insisted on it so often and so vehemently that they are bringing themselves to believe it. The facts, however, are against them. The government did not need to go to the people and insist that they are prosperous, for it is the people who come to the government to testify thereto. Simflarly. Mr. Fisher claimed that the credit for the several reforms in his department came to him because of the free will of the people themselves. He would leave the matter in the hands of the people, and trust to their judgment. He was pleased to observe that the ex-Minister of Agriculture. Dr. Montague, had not followed this line of attack. Dr. Montague had been but six months in charge of the Agriculture Department and had little opportunity to exercise his ability.

Cold Storage.

In 1895, upon the recommendation of Prof. Robertson, whose foresight he fully nished with isolated cold storage compartments. But as a matter of fact the cold storage was not found to be a success and in consequence in 1897 sixteen vessels were fitted out with mechanical refrigeration, which is now understood to be the only really practical system in large vessels, and warehouses.

Our Butter Trade. The Minister of Agriculture presented lings, making a difference of twenty-five shillings per hundredweight. In 1898 shillings above the best Canadian. In party point of view? Not a bit of it. 1898, throughout the whole season, there was not a single instance in which the

Canadian butter was not higher than

Australian. This result he attributed to the facilities now provided by which the English market in the same splendid condition in which it leaves and Canadian creamery butter at the creamery in Canada is not surpassed in quality by any butter on the face of the earth.

Pork, Ham and Bacon.

Incidentally the Minister of Agriculture drew attention to the immense increase in our sales of pork, ham and In 1891 we exported \$632,000 worth of these products. In 1896 it had grown to \$4,400,000, and in 1898 to. \$8,000,000. For the present fiscal year it would seem that the figure may well. reach twelve millions.

Our Cattle Trade.

The Minister of Agriculture referred with pardonable pride to the results which have been accomplished by the removal of the American quarantine against Canadian cattle. While in the four years from 1892 to 1896 in which the embargo was in force Canada sent to the United States 3,763 head of catthe main to a very full explanation of the value of \$52,000; in the two the government's further policy in the years which have elapsed since that remetter of prohibition, and to a reply to striction was removed Canada sent to the United States 180,849 head of cattle of the value of \$2.514,000. Mr. Wallace-How much is that per

> The Minister of Agriculture-Figure that out for yourself.

> Mr. Waliace-Under fourteen dollars a The Minister of Agriculture-Yes, and the honorable gentleman, if he knew anything about the state of our stock interests three years ago in Canada would have known well that our farmers here could not at that time sell the class of cattle which went to the United States for eight of ten dollars, let alone fourteen dollars a head. The cattle which went across to the United States are chiefly young cattle, unsaleable animals which could not go to the English market and which were resting like an incubus on the cattle market of Canada. Of the effect of this move, Mr. Ironsides, of the firm of Gordon & Ironsides, the largest cattle dealers and exporters in Canada, had expressed the gratitude which Canadian farmers owe to the government by which all the young

had doubled in value. Mr. Ives Sarcastic. Mr. Ives asked if the Postmaster-Gen-

cattle under two years of age in Canada

eral agreed in this piece of administra-The Minister of Agriculture replied that he fully concurred, and that in so doing he acted not inconsistently with the position which he had formerly octhe British embargo was saddled upon Canadian cattle.

Mr. Ives-I think from what we have polls. heard the personnel of the commission which went to Washington should have been changed and my honorable friend should have gone down.

The Minister of Agriculture-The honorable gentleman compliments me highly. But while I have my work to do, my honorable friends who went to Wash- the plebiscite; it was for that purpose there was a general concensus of opinion ington had their work to do and I have and that alone. The people of the coun- on the part of everybody, temperence no doubt did it with the same success. Mr. Ives-That was not much.

Continuing, the Minister of Agriculture observed that he was not fishing after credit and yet he could not but feel to the government in November last. gratified at the assurances which he had received of Liberals and Conservatives alike, when in their dairy conferences, two things-that either he has no sym- live stock associations and fruit growers' of antiafantia which he had been able to do.

A Personal Explanation. caused some anxiety among members of ture assured the House that he had no intention of withdrawing from the govorable gentleman knows in his heart the ernment. The reason he was not going to resign was because there was no cause of difference between him and the leader ture quoted the resolution passed at the of the government. When a few days largest meeting in the history of the Lib- ago he was called away by matters of him by the press of the gentlemen oppocourse pursued by the Minister of the site that he was indulging in a sulk. So far as sulking is concerned, he could say that it was not a characteristic of himself or of any member of the govern-The Minister of Agriculture ment. praised the present distinguished incument of the High Commissionership in London for the manner in which he has attended to his high duties. Even if it were his wish to attain to that position would shrink from the attempt to fol-

low such a man as Lord Strathcona. THE PLEBISCITE.

Mr. Fisher's Views on the Subject-The Attack on the Government.

Coming down to what may be regarded as the most important part of his address, the Minister of Agriculture found that the Opposition were worrying a great deal about himself and about what the government is going to do in the matter of prohibition. It is rather an extraordinary fact. There is but one against and a third did not vote at all. song on the Opposition side, and it is, "You naughty government, why do you not propose a prohibitory law?" said the minister, "on the other side of the House has proposed a prohi- trouble to do that before the plebiscite bitory law. Nobody on the other side recognized, ten steamships had been fur- has said what he is prepared to do, and although this attack upon the govern- It was before the whole people of the ment has been made, the fact that it is country. It was an absolute fact and tlemen have at heart is shown by the else knew it. fact that whoever be the speaker on the to the House the results which have fol- and Stanstead (Moore) are diametrically Canada an opportunity to express their within a year it would be repealed and lowed the introduction of this splendid opposed on the question of prohibition, system of cold storage. While in 1804, and yet the speeches which they have ernment in power must necessarily carry the government and the parliament for and up to 1896 Canadian butter of the made are almost identical. And why best quality ranged from seventy-two to are they identical? Because their whole eighty-five shillings per hundredweight in aim and object has been to accuse the Liberal party would do, for we know effect. England, the finest Danish ranged from government and to put it in a hole, and a hundred to a hundred and five shil- not to benefit or help prohibition at all." "The honorable gentleman," he said "on that side of the House have accused the difference between finest Canadian the government Has any member, has and Danish ran under six shillings per | the member for York (Mr. Foster) said | ther my honorable friend meant there. hundredweight. In August last he had what he would do on this question if he as his words say, that it should be "the himself seen Canadian butter sold at a were in office? Has he said that he is expressed will," and as "the expressed higher figure than the Danish. In 1896 desirous of going to the country to test fancy Australian ran from ten to twelve the people upon this question from a

What the Plebiscite Is.

institution in the days of ancient Rome, Canadian creamery butter is placed upon I will say that it has been in modern ays chiefly made use of in France. The plebiscite was made use of there in the third empire to obtain endorsation from the people of a political question which been already 'un fait accompli.'

Mr. Foster-The referendum. The Minister of Agriculture-Excuse me, the referendum is an entirely different thing from the plebiscite. The referendum is the submission of a definite or particular law to the people of the country to be adopted, just as the acot Act is referred to the referendum of a constituency, county or a municipal or

Mr. Bergeron-Are there any cases in England?

The Minister of Agriculture-There have been no cases of the plebiscite in England in my historical researches. We had a plebiscite for the purpose of obtaining an opinion of the people on the question of prohibition, not upon 'un fait accompli." and not as a referendum for the purpose of adopting a particular lav. The honoroble gentlemen opposite know perfectly well that the temperance people of this country did not wish a reterendum. They felt, and rightly, that if by a referendum a special law were to be submitted for vote in the country, a series of side issues would be brought in and the people of the country would be deterred from voting in consequence of the details of that particular law. The government had that request of the temperance people in view. Furthermore, the government carried out its pledge to give a plebiscite to the people as the people asked for it, and as the party when in Opposition, had said they would do.

Sir Charles's Accusation.

Sir Charles Tupper stated in his ech that we had deceived the people count of the manner in which it took the plebiscite

In this connection the Minister of Agriculture quoted what Mr. Spence, as If they did not, a much more serious representative of the temperance people, imputation must lie upon them. I know had said, when in November last a depu- that at the last moment a good deal of tation approached a committee of the agitation was made and a good deal of government. Mr. Speace then said: "It work done on the part of the temperwas only eight months since a delegation, ance people to bring out the vote. They of the Dominion Alliance had waited up- had that opportunity; they took advanon the first minister and his colleagues, age of it, and as far as the results of the asking that the question to be submitted to the electorate be not trammelled by the introduction of any side issues. the straightforward and honorable way in which the government had dealt with that petition they owe their thanks."

This, the minister thought, disposes of the objection brought forward by the cupied. Upon the shoulders of Mr. Ives leader of the Opposition as to the manand his colleagues, he considered, the ner in which the government had carburden of remissness rested, by which ried its pledge to the temperance people, that they would give them an opportunity of expressing their opinion at the

> What, asked the minister, were the results? I may say emphatically this: 'The plebiscite was for the purpose of enabling the electorate of Canada to give expression to their opinion upon the question of prohibition. That is the whole and sole thing in connection with try had that opportunity given them in a straightforward and honest manner as was stated by the representatives of ed. That sentiment was almost univerthe temperance people when they came sal over the length and breadth of this

Analysis of the Vote. How, then, did the people of Canada take advantage of that opportunity and how did they go to the polls? The fig ures are about these in round numbers. Taking a hundred names on the voters' lists, forty per cent. voted and fifty-six Proceeding to another point which has per cent, of the whole number enrolled on the list did not vote. Twenty-two and a half per cent. voted "yes" and twentyand and a balf per cent. of the whole

list voted "no" The right and the fair thing would be to take the average vote at the ordinary elections which are held in this country. As a matter of fact of every hundred names on the voters' lists in the elections eral Association of Manitoba in March private business it was charged against of 1887, seventy per cent. of the people and you will see the temperance people voted. In the elections of 1891, sixty- asking the government to pass a six per cent. voted and in the elections of 1896 sixty-six per cent. The voters' selves say that the plebiscite vote juslist of 1896 was a list which was about three years old. In 1898, when the plebiscite was taken the list in the province could be enforced. All they do is to ask of Quebec was absolutely new: in the that the government pass a law. I do province of Ontario I understand it was new; in some of the smaller provinces them. The temperance people want it was not new, but on the whole the prohibition. I want it, too. They ask average was much newer than that used in the elections of 1896, which was all it to the government, to parliament to over Canada about three years old. It may therefore he fairly taken that the average vote on the plebiscite, comparing it with the ordinary elections would be about sixty-six per cent., giving the benefit of the doubt fully and entirely to the question. In other words, of sixty-six per cent., which would be the fairly-to-be-expected vote, only fortyper cent. voted, or about twothirds. Of those practically about a half voted for prohibition and about a half, round figures, against. Therefore a third voted for prohibition, a third

> The Government's Pledge. Mr. Foster-My honorable friend lays "No- that down as a rule which would fair to abide by. Did he take the

> > was taken at all? The Minister of Agriculture-I did not.

Mr. Foster-One other question: other side, or whatever his views on pro- honorable gentleman is reported as havhibition, the burden of his attack is ex- ing said at the Liberal convention in actly the same. Everybody who knows 1893, "I propose to read the resolution take to submit a prohibitory law and these gentlemen knows that the honor- which pledges the Liberal party, if reable members for Compton (Mr. Pope) turned to power to give the people of views upon this question, and the govout the expressed will of the people. There is no doubt that that is what the their pledges can be trusted." Is that ent correct?

The Minister of Agriculture-Speaking from memory, I think it is. Mr. Foster-Then might I ask wh will," was only shown in the votes for and against, and as a majority of that

origin. Without going back to its first those who came out to express their it. Some will say that this has been the plebiscite there was some little

An Insufficient Vote.

The Minister of Agriculture-I will answer personally that I do not think it does. As I have already said, the plabscite was for the purpose of obtaining the will of the people upon this question. | that the best way to secure discussion If the people did not have an opinion, or did not express that opinion, the plebiscite does not show the true opinion of litical action on the part of the temperthe people of this country, as expressed in the vote, and until the responsible advisers of the crown in this country can to discuss it who without that interest be assured of what they believe to be would have left it alone, and have the opinion of the people they can only carry hat out by their judgment. I say this emphatically that it would be a folly, and it would not be consistent with the good government of this country, or with the duty which this governa prohibitory law. Mr. Foster-We are anxious for

Dr. Landkerkin-You need it. Mr. Ives-Was the honorable gentle man at the time of the Ottawa convention awa'e of the understanding, as stated by the leader of the government, that between the different elements of the Liberal party that met there, it was understood that the vote must contain a certain preponderance in favor of prohibition in order to be acted upon? The Minister of Agriculture-I wil

answer the honorable gentleman when come to that. In the meantime I must ask that these gentlemen allow me to get on with my speech. I try to be goodnatured and to give them every opporunity to satisfy that landable curiosity of theirs, and also to relieve them of that uneasiness which seems to affect

I take it for granted that when the temperance people of Canada nad an opportunity, as they had on Sept. 29 last. and he implied that the government was to go to the polls and register their conderelict in its duty and its policy on ac- victions in favor of prohibition, that every temperance man who was not either absent or sick went to the polls and cast his vote in favor of temperance. plebiscite are concerned, it seems to me that it is folly to take anything beyond the bare facts as shown by the vote. The temperance people had an abundant opportunity to vote; they had the vote presented to them in exactly the way they wanted. As Mr. Spence said, they owed a debt of gratitude to the govern ment in the honorable way in which we have fulfilled our pledge to them; and to suppose they did not take advantage of that, to suppose they were so indifferent to the matter that they did not come out to vote, is to insult the temperance people of this country, and I am not going to take part or lot in that

But I have seen a great many temper ance people since the vote was taken and have had correspondence with a great many others and one remarkable was that immediately after the vote people as well as others, that on that vote no prohibitory law would be passcountry. It was so far universal that afterwards leading temperance men complained to me of the fact saying that it was extraordinary. The common sense of the people appreciated the no cause for introducing a prohibitory law, a measure which was so radical in the way in which it would the whole economic condition of this country that it must have for its successful enforcement the great preponderance of the sentiment and the practical wish of the mass of the people. This vote does not show that. The honorable gentlemen opposite do not say that it The temperance people selves do not say that it does. Read the resolution of the Dominion Alliance hibitory law. But they do not themtifies a law. They do not say that the vote is such as to show that the law not wonder at it. I sympathize with for it; they hope to get it. They leave say how they will give that law, and how after they have got it it shall be enforced. But temperance man as I am, strongly in favor of prohibition as I am, long as I have worked in its cause, I stand here in the full responsibility of my position as a minister of the crown and I have to remember that if we were to pass a prohibitory law which had not back of it the overflowing predonderance of the sentiment of Can ada the passage of that law would simply lead to anarchy, difficulty and danger and the result, too, would be o discredit temperance and prohibition itself to an extent which it would not get over in a generation,

A Warning.

It was only a few years ago that New Brunswick adopted a prohibitory law. It was done apparently hastily and without due consideration. At that one moment the whole license law of the province was swept out of existence. What was the result? Within less than a not prohibition which the honorable gentleman and every one year the law was repealed and temperance received such a set-back and a check in that province as it took a generation to overcome. I venture to say that if this government was to underthis parliament were to adopt it, and were to come into effect to-morrow the people of this country would blame having created such a disturbance in the economy of the country to such little Mr. Bergeron-Why did you spend

\$250,000 to learn that? The Minister of Agriculture-Because we wanted to find out the exact opinion of the people of this country on the measure. Because there was a difference of opinion. Temperance people said that Canada was ripe for prohibition; the liquor people said it was not:

a waste of public money-that \$250,000 play of bitterness, and it was said has been spent to no advantage. I do not think so. For long years back in Quebec were still voting. I am my temperance work in Canada I have much concerned about these rash found that the progress made has been ances of ignorant people, as to fin made through constant agitation and discussion of the subject. I have found and agitation has been to bring up what may be called legislative or poance people. By bringing the question forward in that way we could get men been utterly indifferent to it. This being the case this plebiscite campaign has done greater good and , has brought about a more thorough discussion of the temperance question than it has ever had before in the Dominion of Canada; ment were to undertake to put into force and I have faith enough in the temperance cause and in the principle of prohibition to feel that the more it is discussed the greater will be its progress and the nearer will come its final triumph. If for no other reason than that, I would gladly see the the expenditure of a quarter of a million of money to

A Lesson Learned

bring that about.

But there is another, and perhaps a greater, result from this plebiscite. It has removed all doubt about the position of this question in the country. We know now that there are about a third of the electorate who are ardent prohibitionists; devoted men who have the temperance cause sincerely at heart; who are ready to sacrifice their time and go to the polls and declare for it. We know now where we are, and the temperance people know what they have to overcome. Those who are indifferent never before had the opportunity which they have had of appreciating the consequences of their indifference. If they had only desired not to see prohibition enforced they have injured their own side of the question because they have given the prohibitionists the opportunity of showing their strength to the country to be such that it must be considered in the future.

This is not a party question. It was not brought forward as a party question. When the plebiscite bill last session there were very few in the House who ventured to take any exception to it. The honorable gentlemen opposite did not challenge a division, but helped us to put it through. Therefore I am warranted in saying that it was not a party question, and that neither was the result a party question. The honorable gentlemen opposite are not making it a party question in any sense or shape, except in their desire to make a little party capital out of the censure of the government. It is not a party question because we find that men of all parties are speaking about it differently.

The Minister of Agriculture quoted the published opinion of the Rev. Mr. Ker, of Grace Church, Point St. Charles, a gentleman who has avowed himself an opponent to this government, who is also a prohibitionist and a man of standing. In this letter Dr. Ker declares his belief that the government would not be justified in introducing a

prohibitory law

Proceeding, the Minister of Agriculture said: There are only one or two other questions on which I would like to say a few words. When the Scott act is to be adopted the act requires that at least a quarter of the electors on the voters' list of a particular county shall sign a petition in favor of the submission of the act. The honorable gen- which the actual and true names tlemen opposite do not ask that we a prohibitory law they say that we are remiss in our duty because we do not do so, when less than was met with loud cries of "Order. twenty-five per cent, of the voters on from the Liberal benches. He got as fi the list voted for it.

But let me refer to another point. man," when Mr. Fisher said "No." In the province of Quebec, under the then changed his tactics, and said the law, applicants for license shall furnish he rose to a point of order. the collector of provincial revenue a was stated, and it was merely to reques certificate signed by a quarter of the the minister to lay the documents residential municipal electors, or by a ferred to on the table, the Speaker ru majority of the residential municipal electors if they number less than fifty of a population of a township, and in not quoted from any document either the cities of Quebec and Montreal an the government or of any one else. absolute majority of municipal voters have stated that I had an examina residing within the municipal polling made of these documents and the re-

the license before it can be refused. This shows that not a certain num- returning officers in the several polls w ber of those who voted upon the lists have to express their opinion on the questions submitted. I shall not go into details, but practically the same thing lists in the hands of the Clerk true in Ontario, New Brunswick and Crown in Chancery; there was

Nova Scotia. But the honorable gentlemen opposite have been making a good deal out of ulently stuffed in which the figures the plea that the Liberal party holds cided with the official documents office on a less or very little greater vote than was given for prohibition in rash manner were based on news the plebiscite. The facts, however, are reports and on the reports of a sc not so. I have taken the trouble to go through the figures in every constituency in this Dominion where there was a straight fight, that is, where there was not a three-cornered fight or anything of that kind. Where there is such fight it is difficult to estimate how many votes were cast for either the one party or the other. I think that it is only fair, therefore, to take the constituencies where there was a fair fight between the two parties, and taking all these we find the Liberal party had thirty-four per cent. of the vote on the lists, and the Conservatives only thirtytwo per cent., making sixty-six per cent. of the vote on the lists, which were actually cast in these constituencies. In other words, while in the plebiscite, prohibition had 22½ per cent, of the votes on the lists, in the elections in those constituencies where there was a straight fight the Liberals party had 37 per cent., and not 28 per cent, as an pnorable member so boldy declared the other night. As a matter of fact, in prohibition. the plebiscite the prohibition party had less than a quarter of the enrolled vote in its favor, whereas the government ad, in the election of 1896, more than third of the enrolled votes, thus presenting a very different contrast from and worked against total proh that which the honorable gentlemen op- there was not a single license issue

with so often in this debate. THE QUEBEC VOTE. Mr. Fisher Denies the Stories of Fraud-

ulence. -0-There is another important point I wish to deal with. A number of honorable gentlemen have been making very rash statements as to the plebiscite vote | eighten counties in which there many indifferent people said they did in the province of Quebec. The honorvote was in favor of the principle of pro- not know anything about it; but we able member for Compton (Mr. Pope) hibition, whether he does not think his wanted to find out the exact position the other night said he had proof of eight counties with only two; six own words hold him to the "expressed and status of the temperance sentiment gross frauds in Quebec. We know that ties with only three. Only a tenth "The plebiscite is a thing of very old will" being shown by the majority of in the country, and this vote has shown in the Ontario press immediately after municipalities in the Country of

a week after the vote that the pe tlemen representing Quebec cies standing up in their places claring that the returning office were dishonest and fraudulent necessary to defend the honprovince, which stands smirche Dominion and elsewhere. Wha accusations? We have them n the Ottawa Journal, of the fore last, as follows:

In every case, without a sing tion, fraud was apparent and proven. Mr. Parent's report s detail that, say, in the County of in poll No. 1 of Beaupre, su was deputy returning officer: the day of voting 36 votes were in vet next day the D.R.O. would fifty to a hundred and twent against prohibition.

This emissary returned from and brought a letter purporting written by E. Pacaud, of the So leading Liberal newspaper in th trict, which contained the prom the department would offer a under the government to the if he did what was requested of his did what was required.

In Three Rivers a DRO work only on consideration that to be made a forest ranger. This tion was promised and he is at the ment in the woods drawing pay fro Liberal provincial government, er case, a D.R.O., believing that whole thing looked like a farce as officer was not sworn, went to Quebe ask for instructions. He saw som the Liberal whips whose names w given and asked what was requ They laughed and told him that and allow others to be appointed. hint was enough for the gentleman the day after the election he put seventy-four votes against prohibition

These statements, said the mini-

are given on the authority of Mr. Pa ent who was sent out by the Que Alliance, and the Good Governmen sociation, of the province, in the of Major E. L. Bond, instructed out if frauds had been committed brought back a report in which ed categorically the names of the returning officers, who, he claimed committed these frauds, and he categorically the numbers of the the names of the parishes; the num of votes really polled and the num fraudulently inserted by these return officers. He swore to that, and I w asked to conduct an investigation by committee of the Alliance in Monti eaded by Mr. John R. Dougall, Mr. J. H. Carson. I said that I did believe that men in the province of () bec, who were sufficiently respectable be appointed returning officers, won neglect to swear their subordinate of cers, lay themselves open to prosetion for every case of such omission, a to a penalty of \$200. Nor did I belie that the men who had been sworn in deputy returning officers would so neglect their duty to the public and so dishonest as to have done the thir charged against them, and even if were remiss to a sense of duty that the never would be so rash and foolish as do these things, and to lay themselve open to the penalty for their crime examined the lists in the custody of Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. the returning officers in the province

Quebec are record At this point Mr. Foster rose, a as "May I ask the honorable that there was no point of order at

The Minister of Agriculture-I district must signify their opposition to of that examination shows that statements of Parent, naming the one and all absolutely false and wi single number given as a return a one poll which he said had been who seems to have deceived his ployers, who had not even the con sense to find out the names of the turning officers, as he could have without difficulty if he had wished want to put this matter right before people as well as the House, becaregret to say that a large number ple have been led to believe tha were men in the province of Que lost to their sense of public dut esty and self-respect that they commit these crimes. Sir, as coming from Quebec, though French origin, I want to tell tlemen that they mistake the peo Quebec and above all the French ple of that province if they believ assert these things of them It is true that in the province of ec there was a large majority a prohibition. It is true that in the

there was not a single representa these particular neighborhoods the not a man who believed in total tion. But in these very coun were hundreds of municipalities an ishes in which, while the people posite had been hugging themselves the sale of liquor. I have a return of the municipalities in the prov Quebec showing the condition of in that regard. In the whole p there are 928 municipalities and are only 225 of these in which the any license for the sale of liquor; to say, out of the 928 munic there are about twenty-four per ce ly who have licenses. There are cense at all within their bounds. are four counties with only one

vince there was poll after poll i

have licenses, and only Pontiae. This compares ably with the other pr Dominion. But the municipalities, while they to have licenses in the they object to the evil, the uproar attendant upo of liquor in their own in favor of total prohib not expressed that opinion and while I do not agree their opinion is entitled spect as the opinion of other part of Canad.

Just one more word at Parent. He represented him the postoffice of this city. employed as a temporary he made this report and fou secretary of the Alliance c tawa to verify it, this states Journal the other night says been sent away by the Min Interior as an immigration Western States. This stat as false as the rest. The Min Interior has never employe given him any promise He disappeared because conscience, knowing that his making an affiavit to slanders he was liable to and that he would have through if he had remained has gone and he will proba seen again in this country.

Mr. Foster—With referen voters' lists, did the Minister ture say that he has satis that in no given poll, for there any regularity? The Minister fo Agricultur

Mr. Foster-Then how con prove an assertion that ther an irregularity at one of simply looking at the polless you were to confront shows in the poll-book here tual voters or non-voters districts

The Minister of Agricultu orable gentleman has entire stood my point, or he does Mr. Foster-Give me the

The Minister of Agricultur that I have not in any way the investigations that I have that there were no funds. stated is that Mr. Parent's s such and such a returning of and such a polling station ha absolutely discredited or known head by the fact that soreturning officer at all. When and-so stuffed 25 ballots into made a return of 125 against at that poll, we find that th 125 votes against prohibition These facts show that he is that we cannot bel'eve him. I entire accusation against the p province of Quebec falls to the those honorable gentlemen wh it ought to acknowledge their apologize to the people of Que There are a large number

Canada who are disappointed

sult of the plebiscite. I am have worked for a long time of prohibition. I have believe is a large public sentiment in of Canada in favor of prohibit believed that that sentiment, manifested, was sufficient to j hibitory law. The result of does not seem to just'fy it. in saying that I have with sensible men of the country w make these facts square with do not blame them for the have that desire for proh bit ly as any of them, but I have effective prohibition. I cast on the gentlemen who are todemanding that we shall pass law. I confess that at the the suggestion made to me these men appeared to ticable. Some want provincial some want the government to of the liquor traffic and carry propose the enlargement of th so as to include provinces as v ties and municipalities; others ing that we adopt the Gothen of Sweden. I propose only to the prohibition question. One tion as embodied in the Scott other is total prohibition. We discussed as a practical prop these. It might be that might be found applicable tion of affairs in this country is familiar with the fact the largely against prohibition. place, part'cular localities vinces, Waterloo, for install Montreal, Hamilton and against prohibition. The rura ties generally are in favor of This leads me to think of loca under the circumstances to t'on. I know that a majority pecially in Ontarie, have been

thing which is perhaps the bes local option and have refuse the Scott Act, and were in h country to-day had got within distance of prohibition. markable thing in connection returns is that where local opi lengest in force the prohibi largest. In Prince Edward Sectia and New Brunswick overwhelming in favor of pr feel that this is the best solu day offers itself to the people ed for immediate working. amendments possible to be Scott Act, but I do not promise that now. I consider that this if it does not apply all the ad prohibition, will educate the pe point where they will perhap votes in sufficient numbers to ntroduction of a prohibitory la

whole country.

The question is one which see as far as possible divest politics. In conclusion, the Minister ture replied to Mr. Ives's req ther information regarding the party by referring him t ment upon the floor of parli statement he accepted.

AN AMENDMENT pposition Wants Yukon A

Investigated. Mr. Clarke (West Toronto three hours' speech, conclud resentation of the amendme ress, which was hatched at t ervative caucuses held recently reads as follows:

"That this house deems it nform His Excellency that in widespread charges of incapac