

interests of the country in probing into the Drummond County transaction, if he thinks there is anything wrong in it, than he is in doing what he is doing now. I tell him that I will not support the government any longer unless they give him a committee, if he makes any sensible charge about the Drummond County Railway.

Mr. SPROULE. I am asking about the Committee on Privileges and Elections which we had appointed last session, and which the government will not allow us to appoint now.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I am talking about the Drummond County Railway, and if you think there is anything wrong in the transaction why are you idling away your time.

Mr. SPROULE. When we got the committee we could not get our work before them.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). That is a reflection on the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart), and the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden). We sat in that committee from day to day and when the present Judge Lister, who was chairman, asked if the Conservatives had any more evidence, the answer was, 'No.' The ex-Minister of Railways who, to speak even modestly of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) is as able a man as he is, said in that committee: We have nothing to produce, and we never said there was anything wrong.

Now, Sir, I have given the record of the Liberal party, and the country has to decide between the two parties. What is the record of the Conservative party? Under its rule we had higher taxation; we had three deficits; a bankrupt exchequer, a dishonest expenditure, as shown again and again, and which, by the way, the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) wants to have forgotten because some of the parties engaged in it are dead; and lastly, we had a shady and quarrelsome administration. We saw one of its members compelled to resign from the government and he has never since returned to this House. That is the record of gentlemen opposite when we appeal to the country. Under Liberal rule new life and new hopes have been infused into Canada. Labour can everywhere find employment, and every man who is willing to work can get a fair day's pay. Sir, no political party, not even the Conservative party, could spoil a country in which every man can find work. I visited most of the Dominion last year from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and everywhere I found the farmers, the artisans, the lumbering men and the miners busy making money. In the North-west I saw large tracts of land, value for \$6,000, paid for in two years. In my own province, the people were never so busy in any period of our history. We all

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

can at least be thankful for that. We on this side of the House, can point to this happy state of affairs, in reply to the taunts of gentlemen opposite, who hold that they are the only divinely created rulers and that the Plebeians among the Liberals could never rule this country with decency or success. I invite hon. gentlemen opposite, many of whom are my friends, to be thankful for our present prosperous condition. Although, perhaps, some of them may think that our affairs are not as well conducted as the Conservatives would conduct them, yet as true Canadians they should rejoice that Canada is happy, and prosperous, and that when they had to get out of power, they were succeeded by men under whose rule such a desirable condition of things obtains. I hear a great deal said by gentlemen opposite as to the result of the elections about to take place. I make no forecast, but I tell these hon. gentlemen opposite that no amount of blatant boasting in this House is going to win the elections for them. I tell the hon. gentlemen that they have got to go before the people and show them that the best interests of all concerned in Canada would be better served and conserved if they went into power. It is easy to say, we are going to win. When the hon. leader of the opposition was in his place in parliament in 1896, I remember hearing him make this statement: 'I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I make the statement here and now, and I want to be judged for all future time by it, and never believed again unless it turns out to be true, that the great Liberal-Conservative party will be returned triumphantly, with a greater majority than they have now.' I take the hon. gentleman at his word; he made his own condition, and I accept it; and I do not believe him now. Prophecy is a dangerous experiment, and I want to point out modestly to hon. gentlemen opposite that too much shouting about what is going to happen is not convenient, and the result may not be what they anticipate. All I know is that we have to present to the people of this country a claim that we need not be ashamed of, and if their claim is better in the interests of the people, they have a right to show that; but they will not win by stating that they are going to.

One word more, and I am done. I refer to a personal remark affecting myself made by the hon. member for Western Assinibola (Mr. Davin). That hon. gentleman referred to a statement which I made in the North-west. It is not a correct statement, but I will take it just as he read it. Addressing the people of the North-west, I said that we ought to judge governments as we judged our friends, our neighbours, our fathers, our mothers, our wives, and our families. I made the statement, and I repeat it now, that if in any of those cases they failed to come up to all that was expected of them,