

was utilized, if not also deliberately designed, as a piece of election machinery, not for the purpose of obtaining an honest expression of the people's will, but to render impossible the return to this Parliament of any member who was unwilling to lend his support to the Administration.

Sir, what has been the effect of these measures, and the manner in which they were administered under the direction of the Government? The effect in this House, and the effect throughout the country? The effect, so far as this House is concerned, is that it has lost altogether its representative character; it cannot be spoken of as in any sense representing the will of the people of Canada. The effect throughout the country is that the whole system of government has been brought into question in the eyes of hundreds of thousands of our electors. They no longer regard Parliament as the people's forum; they are setting up forums of their own in a hundred and one directions; and from these various popular pulpits are pouring ridicule and contempt upon Parliament and our parliamentary institutions; whereas, were Parliament representative of the will of the people as it should be, all eyes would be turned with sympathy upon its deliberations; and all hands outstretched to support its upholding of popular rights and liberties.