

allowing them the privilege of purchasing twine at factory prices up to the 1st of May instead of up to the 1st of March. Every businessman and every representative of a rural constituency knows that there is not a farmer in five thousand who will buy a pound of twine before the 1st of May. Our farmers have not got bank accounts, they do not have sufficient money lying idle that they can afford to pay out money four months in advance of the harvest, they do not know how much grain they will have, they do not know the amount of twine they will require, and therefore this privilege is a valueless one. If the farmer had been accorded the privilege of purchasing twine during the whole of the season at manufacturing prices it would have been some advantage to him. As it is the government are simply playing into the hands of their own political favourites, such men as Hobbs, of London, and Bate, of Ottawa, who buy the binder twine for 4 cents a pound and sell it to the farmers at 14 cents and 15 cents a pound.

Mr. CLANCY. The combine has fixed the price.

Mr. ROCHE. Yes, the combine has fixed the price.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will not trespass further on your time, but will merely say that a government with such a record as this, may well dread the honest verdict of the electors and put off the evil day as long as they possibly can, but come when it may, the people will bear in mind their deception and maladministration and ask them, how comes it that a party that promised reduced expenditure have increased it by \$10,000,000; that promised a reduction of the national debt and have increased it \$7,000,000; that promised free trade and have maintained protection, receiving the endorsement of the Manufacturers' Association in so doing; that promised a reduction of cabinet ministers and have increased them by two; that promised a fast Atlantic service and have entirely failed to secure one; that were so desirous to preserve the dignity of parliament and its independence, that the present Postmaster General, when in opposition, introduced a resolution into this House making it a misdemeanour for any member of parliament to accept a position of emolument under the Crown until two years after he had ceased to be a member, and who, since coming into power, have appointed fifteen or sixteen members of parliament to public positions? How comes it that the same hon. gentleman introduced a resolution providing for the reduction of the Governor General's salary, claiming it was outrageously high for a country like Canada to pay Her Majesty's representative, but who evidently thinks it all right now, for no move has been made to effect such a

Mr. ROCHE.

reduction? Why is it that a party that preached purity in elections, purity in administration, and purity in our public men, have given unmistakable evidence of a desire to shield the guilty, to stifle investigation, and to condone offences when committed by members of their own party? What is the reason that a party who railed against the Senate as the repository of worn-out political hacks, defeated candidates and men in their dotage, have since appointed, time and again, men who have been rejected at the polls, discredited politicians, such as a recent Manitoba appointment, and other youthful appointees only 83 years of age, who promised that with a Liberal government in power reciprocity with the United States would be sure to follow as a matter of course, and who, after having spent months in begging for this so-called boon, and spending thousands of dollars of public funds in visits to Washington for this purpose, now declare that the people of Canada do not desire reciprocity; who pledged themselves to introduce a prohibitory liquor law if the result of the plebiscite was favourable, and having expended \$200,000 out of the public treasury for the taking of that plebiscite, afterwards refused to carry out their pledges, because of a secret agreement amongst themselves imposing an impossible condition, requiring at least 50 per cent of the total vote on the list to be polled in its favour.

It is because of all this and much more of a like character that might be enumerated, that it does not require a person to be blest with any great spirit of prophecy to foretell the result of the next contest. I have too much respect for the intelligence of the people of Canada, too much confidence in their judgment, too much belief in their uprightness and their integrity, to think it likely that they will condone these offences on the part of our public men. I believe, Sir, that the people of Canada will hold this government strictly to account for their boodling propensities and for their maladministration.

Mr. HEYD moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11 p.m.