

cement. If the cement duty was too high in May it was too high in February and if it was too high in May it was too high in October. I have no hesitation in saying that it was too high in both February and October and I look to the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. White) to bring in a measure to remedy that condition in the proper way and at the proper time, and if he does he certainly shall have my support.

I was somewhat astonished at the manner in which the Prime Minister saw fit to consider—or to refuse to consider—the position placed before the House by the leader of the Opposition in regard to the Macdonald and Richelieu elections. I was educated, I will admit, in the belief that there was a great deal of iniquity in the Tory party. I have always been glad to believe that my education was, to some extent, misdirected. I have always been glad to think that, especially when persons acquired membership in that party from amongst those who were formerly Liberals—I shall not mention any names—the gentlemen who became members of that party brought with them to some extent the leaven of their Liberal principles and improved the party to that extent. Therefore, I was astonished beyond measure that the Prime Minister, with his traditions, and, may I say, his record in Opposition, should have seen fit to ignore the statement of fact placed before this House and to merely reply: Oh, that was an election occurrence such as took place on former occasions and in other places.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if I might trespass upon the time of the House, I wish to place before you and the House facts which I think will establish that there were certain occurrences in connection with the election in Macdonald, Manitoba, that are unique in the history of this country, that no other such occasion has ever yet arisen within the knowledge of this Parliament and that it does claim at hands of the members of this Parliament for the protection of the rights and dignity of this Parliament, the most serious consideration. I do not suggest that, upon any statement of facts I can place before the House to-night, the House will be required to take certain action, but I do say that it is possible to place before the House such a case, such evidence that, unless the House is prepared to go further and make inquiry for the protection of its rights and dignity, this country has entered upon an entirely new political phase the results of which no man can prophesy.

Ordinarily an election contest is dealt with before the courts. The election in Macdonald will be dealt with before the courts. An election petition has been entered and proceedings are now in progress.

But there were proceedings in the Macdonald election that do not come within the jurisdiction of the courts, that concern the courts themselves and go so far towards the very fountain of justice and liberty in this country as to demand the attention of the only body that is able to give that attention and that is this Parliament.

I was pleased to hear my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Nickle) speak of the might of Britain and the navy of Britain, and also to hear the right hon. the Prime Minister speak in much the same strain. But, let me ask you, Mr. Speaker, why is the might of Britain and the navy of Britain important in the world. Is it because of the number of its ships, and its guns, and the men that are on board its ships, or the money that it costs? Every man knows that the importance of the might of Britain is that Britain stands for the liberty of the subject and the right of free speech. And, it is because it is the belief of the civilized world that the navy of Britain is behind these rights that the navy of Britain is important in the eyes of the world. And it is because of that that the people of Canada and of the islands of the sea are ready to support that navy and to sustain that might and power. But, if a condition of affairs arises when, in the name of the Crown of Britain the liberty of the subject is denied and the right of free speech is prevented, then I ask you to what end the navy of Great Britain or the might of Britain? In this election in Macdonald, I have the affidavits in my hand which prove conclusively that imprisonment was enforced upon free citizens of this country because they dared to exercise the right of free speech; that this was done by the authority of the Premier of Manitoba, that authority in which rests the courts of that province, and, that it was actively connived at by members of the Government who sit in their places in this House. I speak of the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of the Interior. Not to weary the House too long but to come to the proof—the House is aware and the country is aware that the Premier of the province of Manitoba is Sir Rodmond Roblin and that the newspaper exponent of his Government in Winnipeg is the 'Winnipeg Telegram.' And in the 'Winnipeg Telegram' of October 5th, just seven days before election day in Macdonald, the following appeared:

Saskatchewan Crooks at Work in Macdonald.
Declares the Premier.

Sir Rodmond Roblin returned to the city last night from the electoral division of Macdonald, where he has been campaigning for the last week. When seen at his house by a Telegram representative, and asked for his