

but with the manner in which they were met by the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. DALY. Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that any of them were offended at anything I said at that meeting?

Mr. MARTIN. So I am informed.

Mr. DALY. Will the hon. gentleman give me the names of his informants?

Mr. MARTIN. If the hon. gentleman will get a report of the meeting in any of the Winnipeg newspapers—

Mr. DALY. I have got it here—the “Winnipeg Free Press” of the 13th.

Mr. MARTIN. I think I can fairly say that if the hon. gentleman will communicate with those present at the meeting, 90 per cent of them will corroborate everything I say. On making allowance of 10 per cent for yellow dog Tories, who would say they were satisfied, if the hon. Premier and Minister of Interior (Mr. Daly) had been ten times more offensive than they were? I think I can fairly say, that 90 per cent of that delegation, largely composed of Conservatives, would endorse everything I have said to-day with regard to the treatment they received. I scarcely think, that the hon. Minister has been very fair to me, in stating, that one would gather from my remarks, that I was the only one who ever brought the subject up here, because I expressly mentioned that Mr. Hugh J. Macdonald, my predecessor, and the gentleman who preceded him, had time and time again brought this matter before the attention of Parliament and the Government. Not a word escaped from me in condemnation of any of my predecessors, who are supporters of the Government, because I believe they did all they could to forward this matter. But what I draw attention to is, that it is only now, after my poor efforts have been exerted in that direction—but, possibly, not on account of them, but rather on account of the fact, that the Government, in the meantime, had lost Winnipeg by their gross neglect in this and many other matters, and also on account of the fact, that an election is imminent—we have for the first time a declaration from the Government, that they intend to do something substantial in this matter. My hon. friend has put forward the suggestion, that Mr. Ruttan's report has brought about this conversion; but Mr. Ruttan's report was before the Government about five years ago, and, if it was sufficient to convince the Government, why did not the Government undertake the work, when that report was submitted to them and when they had one of their own supporters, the then member for Winnipeg, and other strong friends of their own, urging on them the necessity of going on with this work just as strongly as I have ever done?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. MARTIN.

YALE AND CARIBOO ELECTORAL LISTS.

Mr. MARTIN moved for:

Copy of the list of electors for the constituencies of Yale and Cariboo.

He said: Hon. gentlemen opposite are aware that in British Columbia there has been, during the last year or two, a great revival in mineral excitement and mineral discoveries, and that that has occurred perhaps more than in any other part of the province, in the Kootenay district, a portion of the constituency of my hon. friend from Yale. The House knows, that for the next election the constituency of Cariboo has been united with Yale, and that hereafter we are to have a single constituency of Yale and Cariboo. I am not very sure of the distances, but I think in that new constituency it must be about 200 miles from east to west, and three or four hundred miles from north to south. It is most natural, that the making of the voters' lists under the Dominion Franchise Act for a constituency of such magnificent distances, must be a matter of very considerable difficulty; and I think I can fairly say, that the voters' list which was made at the last revision for that constituency is a most unsatisfactory one. I believe that, in some places, the notices did not reach the people, and I know, from information I have received, that there is a large number of persons scattered all through that constituency who are fully entitled to vote, but whose names are not on the list. That is one of the things which must naturally happen under the operation of the very unfair franchise law we now have. But what I rise particularly to point out is, that on account of this mineral excitement, there is one portion of the constituency, namely the Kootenay district, which has almost entirely grown up since the revision of the lists. Towns that existed in 1894, when the lists were revised, have been very largely increased by people coming into them from other parts of British Columbia and Canada generally. In one instance, there is a new town, called Rossland, whose population at present exceeds 3,000 people, very few of whose names are on the lists, and which has no polling place at all. The polling place for Rossland is at Waneta. Now, I am told, that from Rossland to Trail, which is upon the water, is 8 miles, and that from Trail to Waneta is 12 or 14 miles water or by trail. What do you think of a law under the operation of which, when an election comes round, a town of 3,000 people has no polling place, and its people have to go 20 miles to vote? But that is not the worst. Not only are the people in Rossland obliged to go this distance to vote, but the great majority of them are not on the voters' lists at all, and cannot vote at all, unless they are able to go back to the old constituencies where they lived till 1894. Of course, I cannot say that the