

entirely believe. He can make that statement, and yet members of his Government may have made a corrupt bargain. There is very little patronage connected with the office that the Prime Minister holds; but one of the members of the Government that are charged in this article and are mentioned in the agreement referred to in the affidavit—one of those members exercises a very large patronage in the North-west Territories; and that is the Minister of Interior; and he should be here to deny what is attributed to him. But in default of the presence of the Minister of Interior, we should have the Finance Minister to deny the statement that he is implicated; and in default of the Finance Minister or the Minister of Interior repudiating the charge, then we should have had a direct statement from the member for Saskatchewan that no such agreement was made. The member for Saskatchewan got up, and what did he do? Why, he told us that he was elected, that there was a protest against him, and that that protest had been dismissed. Because why? For want of evidence? No, because it did not go to trial; but because the petitioner withdrew from the position of petitioner. Then the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) got up. He started out with an attempt to bend the bow of Ulysses; he attempted to wield the club of Hercules, he attempted to imitate the manner of my hon. friend who leads the Opposition. Well, Sir, he was hardly heavy enough to do it. He was like a super in a cast for Othello wanting to play the principal part, and he was hardly equal to it. He spoke of his long experience in the House. Well, Sir, his experience is longer than that of any other hon. member, but I observe of the hon. gentleman that the older he grows and the more experience he gets the more ineffective he becomes every session. Those gentlemen who have defended the Government have only referred to the allegation in the affidavit that the hon. member for Saskatchewan had made an agreement to give away his patronage; they did not refer at all to the allegation that an arrangement had been made whereby the Government was to place the giving away of the contracts into the hands of this committee. Is that incredible? Is it not on record that the Minister of Public Works was hardly fresh in his office when a supporter of his was giving away a contract through a friend, and then we had the hon. Minister of Public Works indulging in proverbial philosophy, and the immortal line, "business is business" is for ever connected with his name. Well, Sir, business, evidently, up to the hilt and up to the chin in this agreement; business is business so completely that there is no attempt on the part of the Government to deny it. Sir, I cannot for one minute accept the proposition that some hon. gentlemen lay down on that side of the House. If an hon. member brings a charge before the House, as it is his duty to do at

Mr. DAVIN.

the earliest possible moment, it is an advantage to the Government if the Government is free; if the Government's skirts are clean, what I have done here to-day is an advantage to the Government. They could get up and they could clear themselves of this charge that I have made against them. I have frequently admired the ability of the tactics of the leader of the Government, but there is one thing that I do not think he executes well, and that is a precipitate retreat. I must say that he does not shine as brightly as usual when he executes a retreat. I cannot compliment him on the way he has retreated from facing the music on this occasion; indeed, he never attempted to show fight. There was plenty of room for it, however. There are the charges, and there they remain, and there they will remain, and they will sink into the minds of the people, not merely in the North-west, but all over this country. If those charges remain unanswered, then when the Government comes to face the constituencies, come it early, or come it late, they will find, if they do not answer these charges that they will be as mill-stones around their necks.

Motion to adjourn, negatived.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Prime Minister—because I see the Minister of Finance is not here—if he is not going to give us the supplementary Estimates for the current year before he makes his Budget speech. We ought to have the supplementaries both for the current year and for the next year. I have not much hope for the latter, but I think we ought to have the supplementaries for the current year.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). So far as my memory serves me, it is altogether unprecedented; I never saw the Supplementary Estimates brought down before the Budget Speech.

Mr. FOSTER. I am very sorry my hon. friend has so bad a memory. If he will take five minutes to look over the records of the "Hansard" last year and the preceding year, he will find they were brought down.

The PRIME MINISTER. Perhaps so.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Let me remind my hon. friend opposite that I have petitioned, most earnestly, but unsuccessfully, my hon. friend to give us the supplementary Estimates before his Budget speeches.

Mr. FOSTER. Those were the supplementary Estimates for the succeeding year. I remember when I told him that I could not give them to him, that it had not been the practice to do so, and my hon. friend said: It is a very bad practice.