

plained to the House that I had neither signed the recall nor placed my resignation in the hands of the committee. I believe I made a statement in regard to an agreement with the committee and I will give the information once more, that the agreement which I have with the committee is that if they disapprove, they can ask me to come back and explain, not to resign. The onus of responsibility is on the committee in the first place, and I maintain that it is in the interest of good legislation that all the members of this Parliament should be under a similar arrangement. I have a committee of fifteen who are keeping themselves well posted upon public matters in that part of the country, and they are advising me from time to time. They are sending me information and their opinions on public questions, and this helps me materially in my course in this House. I am very much pleased to have their opinions, and I am sure the hon. gentleman for Calgary West can find in his electoral district fifteen men who can and would advise him, and possibly at times he would find that their advice would not conform with the opinions he expresses here. The advice I receive is good, and I say that such a course is progressive. That is one of the reasons why we claim the right to call ourselves progressive. The hon. gentleman states that he believes in the initiative and the referendum. Oh, yes, it is in actual operation throughout the Dominion, and it has been; but I will point out that the initiative and the referendum are more on the principle of direct legislation, and I will point out further that, through the medium of the initiative and the referendum, you can get the recall and a true expression of public opinion, and no power in Canada will prevent that.

If you give the right to initiative and referendum, you have the right to recall and for any act brought into being through the initiative and referendum, and consequently if you are consistent you cannot enact legislation preventing the recall. Hon. members come to this House with the right to sit for five years, representing or misrepresenting the people during that time. Some have done things contrary to the interests of the people, yet the people who sent them here have had no recourse. That is the reason why the recall has been introduced, and I believe it is a good thing to bridge the gulf between the time a member is elected and Parliament dissolves and he presents himself again to the people. That

[Mr. Gould.]

is one of the reasons why I approve of the recall, and why I cannot support the amendment. I think I could refer to a text from Scripture to illustrate what I mean, and that is, to take the beam out of your own eye before you presume to take the mote out of your brother's. If pressed very hard, I think I could also give evidence to show that your own ranks have been working to get this recall put on the statute book.

The CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. member to address his remarks to the Chair, and not to the other side of the House.

Mr. GOULD: I was going to say that the hon. member (Mr. Tweedie) has let pass many opportunities of bringing this matter to the attention of the House, but since I made the statement in this House on April 13 the hon. member, actuated by some pure and holy motive, has become anxious to have members elected to this House by the straight and narrow way. I think that his newly-found virtue should be studied very closely by hon. gentlemen before they think of enacting his amendment into law. I would point out to the hon. member that public opinion is demanding the recall, and I honestly believe that there are members of this House to whom the recall would be a very, very dangerous thing. I believe that some hon. members who are so anxious to have legislation preventing the recall are the very ones who have reason to be afraid of its operation. I do not wish to discuss the matter any further. I might say that I have been asked by many hon. gentlemen opposite to give them a copy of our platform to study. It is a very interesting document, and I have given away so many that I have not a solitary one left for myself. I do not know whether they desire copies of it for purposes of discussion or to inform themselves just what our platform contains, but I am very pleased to let them have copies, and I have written to the West for a further supply. I hope they will find nothing wrong in our platform, but much that is progressive. We approve of the initiative and referendum. We believe in direct legislation. That is one of the planks in our platform, and one of the reasons why our platform is so progressive.

Mr. EDWARDS: I have no fault to find with the hon. member (Mr. Gould) or any other hon. member for subscribing to the platform of the party to which he belongs. If he and others sitting alongside him think that the referendum and recall is