

Then, my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) passed to another subject and he was not sarcastic but jocose—jocoseness by the way is contagious on his side of the House. He was jocose about the result of the by-elections. Heaven forbid that I should grudge the joy of my hon. friend or his friends. If they are pleased, there is no reason why we should not be satisfied. There have been 12 by-elections—Westmoreland, Rouville, Gaspé, Queen's, Prince Edward Island, St. John, N.B., Kamouraska, Montmagny, St. Hyacinthe, St. James, Hochelaga, East Bruce, East Lambton; and out of these twelve the Conservatives actually carried three, and lost nine. Their joy is unbounded, I suppose because they did not lose the whole 12; their joy is unbounded because they were simply snowed under a landslide, and not crushed out of existence under an avalanche. They see themselves carried into power upon the wave of a Conservative reaction. Far be it from me to begrudge them their joy; let them have it to their heart's content. They are wise in rejoicing just now, because if they do not rejoice now they will never have an opportunity to rejoice at all. After the elections it will be too late and therefore let them avail of any little opportunity that they think they may have.

But, Sir, where is that Conservative reaction. Where is the Conservative party to-day? I can speak for no province with marked certainty except my own, and I can say that there is no Conservative party in the province of Quebec. There is a new party there; a protectionist party. Men who were to be Conservatives at one time, and who took pride, and properly so, in the name of Conservatives; they have disappeared and they have been replaced by the Protectionist party. It is a new name. What's in a name? The rose by any other name would smell as sweet;—that is true of the rose, but it is not true of the Conservative party. They tried a new game; they would not go before the electors in the old garb; they selected a new name and a new garb. We know that in marine matters it sometimes happens that when a craft has been upon the sea for years, and has become disabled, leaky and discredited, then in order to impose upon the public she is put into dry dock, treated to a new coat of paint, the old name erased, a new name put on, and she then is launched upon a new career of deceit. Sir, that is what has taken place in the province of Quebec. The old Conservative hull had been discredited, the old Conservative craft was leaky; they put her in dry dock, they gave her a new coat of paint; they scratched out the name 'Conservative' and painted in the name 'Protectionist'; but whether called 'Protectionist' or 'Conservative' the smell was no sweeter in the nostrils of the independent electorate. I am bound to say, Sir, that it did not smell any sweeter to the

members of the Conservative party themselves—it simply stunk in their nostrils, and they would have none of it; to their credit be it said. But, Sir, not only did they change the name of the craft, but they changed the captain as well. That gallant gentleman who had been put in charge of the ship under very painful circumstances, and who with great courage had taken hold of the helm, he was set aside and the old hull, without a captain on board, but commanded from the shore by a Junta, was launched, and started on its perilous and unknown voyage. Let me ask my hon. friends opposite if there is much to rejoice at in all this. No party, no leader, no policy; because although they say they have a policy of protection, yet as I may show later on, they are not even agreed as to the kind of protection they want. For my part, I believe that we can view without any alarm the prospect which awaits us when the time comes to consult the electors as to the fate of the two parties in this country.

My hon. friend (Mr. Borden) passed upon pleasanter ground when he referred to the mover and the seconder of the address. My hon. friend from North Ontario (Mr. Grant) came to the House at the end of last session, and although he came to us late he gave a manifestation of his ability as a debater, and the speech which he delivered to-day, is simply a confirmation of the high esteem in which we already held him. As to my hon. friend from Hochelaga (Mr. Rivet) those who have had the pleasure of listening to him can testify that in the remarks which he made, he gave certain promise of much excellence in the future.

My hon. friend (Mr. Borden) after passing this pleasant episode came to the main point of his speech and he launched at once into an attack on the government for their selection of Mr. Blair as chairman of the Railway Commission. My hon. friend (Mr. Borden) asks: what reason could have influenced us in appointing Mr. Blair, after the attack which Mr. Blair made upon the railway policy which we presented to parliament last session. Let me say to my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) at once, that it is evident that he and I have not the same conception of the duties which we owe to the public men of this country. If I understood his remarks aright, he expected from us, and especially from me as leader of the government, that in the selection of the chairman of the Railway Commission we should be actuated by spite. I can tell my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) that we selected Mr. Blair because we believed there was not in Canada a better qualified and more competent man to discharge the duties of the office to which we have called him. And, Sir, if I were as good a scrap book man as the leader of the opposition, I could recall the eulogy which was passed upon Mr. Blair last session, from the ranks of the opposition. I could quote from hon. gentle-