

courts rather than to arbitration boards. As I pointed out the other evening that has been the case with respect to rights-of-way of railways and various other matters, and if that has been the experience in dealing with matters of this kind, I feel satisfied that the suggestion made by my right hon. leader (Mr. Meighen) this afternoon as to preparing a brief will serve a useful purpose, but I personally would prefer that the settler present his case in person to the judge, knowing as we do that district courts are held in every small community in the three western provinces. They have their sittings defined, the days on which the courts are held, and the settler appears on that day in that little community. He makes his representations and the matter is dealt with. In the long run that will be found to be the most advantageous manner in which this question can be decided.

I am sure the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) is wholly innocent of any desire to utilize the machinery of these resolutions for political purposes and I listened with some delight to the observations that were made in this chamber this afternoon. But as I was listening to them I recalled the language of the Bard of Avon who said:

How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds
Makes ill deeds done.

And possibly the opportunity being offered, evil results might follow. That sentiment I commend to the Minister of Railways. Those of us who live in western Canada and profess the Conservative faith may have reason at times to be a little suspicious of our opponents. None of us who read the public press can fail to be impressed by what we have seen during the last week. In Alberta in which I live, for instance during the last election the machinery of the machine was so used that two of those who operated it are now resting in the penitentiary at Prince Albert under sentences for two years, and only yesterday in the courts of Alberta the oaths of 102 people established that they had voted for a candidate, but alas when the votes were counted only seventeen had so recorded their franchise! I am sure the Minister of Railways will admit that a counting machine that is capable of such an achievement does credit even to its masters. I am also satisfied that the Minister of Railways has not forgotten that when the Prime Minister of this country left this city to visit Prince Albert where he found refuge, he stopped at the capital city of Regina, and the public press records that those who called upon him upon that Sab-

bath day were gentlemen proficient in the handling of the machine, members of the Liquor commission and the Highways commission. I am sure the Minister of Railways under those circumstances can forgive those of us who looking back three centuries realize that great judge of human nature was correct when he said:

How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds
Makes ill deeds done.

I am sure it was the sight of the means that brought about what followed in Alberta in the constituencies of Peace River and Athabaska. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, you would agree with me if you had lived as long as I have in western Canada and suffered as I have suffered, defeated as I was in one instance by a small majority, and yet after spending much time and money and several months of a summer with the aid of a Pinkerton detective whom I brought from Chicago I had convincing evidence, some of which I have yet, that ballots which had been marked for me were removed from the ballot box and marked for my opponent who was returned and sat not in this House of Commons, but in the Alberta legislature. The machine reached the climax of its power in latter days. If my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior would give us his confidence, I am sure he would tell us he thinks as I do because, while he was one who did not do much in oiling the machine—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Thank heaven.

Mr. BENNETT: —he only profited under its operations. Sometimes I do not know whether he thanked heaven for it, because after he studied out what it had done he concluded that heaven had little to do with its operations. But be that as it may, some of us who live in western Canada and sit on this side of the House have been victims of the machine the Minister of Railways has described as "a dandy," whatever that may mean. I take it that it means it is efficient and effective in producing results. For instance we heard something about it in this House yesterday. The other day I rose to bring to the attention of the House something of its operations in Prince Albert and there is further evidence that, in due course will be presented to this House with respect to its operations. It is for that reason that those of us who sit to the left of the Speaker sometimes feel that we owe some duty to society, some duty to those men and women who think as we think in matters political, and willing as we are to acquit men of a desire to thwart the will of the electorate, we