

city candidate; that was my only reason for being there. I was not opposing Mr. Morrison on racial or religious grounds. I am in favour of reciprocity in the East, and I claim the right to express my views in the West as well. On my arrival there, some unedifying reports were made to me in regard to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers). I put no faith in them. However, after all I have witnessed and heard in the meantime, I feel inclined to think that all those misdeeds were committed to his knowledge. An inquiry before the committee on privileges and elections would clear up the matter.

I have taken part in contests in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, some of them, hard-fought battles; but never before had I experienced on the part of the Conservative party such marked contempt for the electoral law. Should such proceedings be resorted to again, a downright system of anarchy would be preferable, the constitution should be torn to pieces and the reign of sheer force substituted for that of right.

Sir, you would have been horrified at the impudence exhibited by the ministers in the Manitoba provincial government. About the same time, an election took place in the county of Richelieu, and not a single provincial cabinet minister interfered. Such is the rule generally followed by the local cabinet ministers in Ontario and Quebec.

When I saw Manitoba's prime minister and his colleagues entering the constituency, addressing very small audiences, endeavouring to influence and intimidate them, I realized that they were animated by some other motive than the desire of showing the superiority of their policy. In this connection the Government relied on the assistance of an army of employees who had recourse to a variety of means quite sufficient to explain why we were defeated. And to this very day I am satisfied that it was not reciprocity that suffered defeat. The people of this country should be made aware of these wicked deeds, and I now propose, Mr. Speaker, to acquaint the House with some of the fraudulent and shameful tricks which were resorted to. Of course, I do not hold the residents of that constituency responsible for such doings; I throw the whole blame on the provincial authorities and their confederates, including the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers).

To begin with, I may refer to an incident personal to me. One afternoon while I was staying in one of the parishes of the county, I was informed that steps were being taken for my arrest a quarter of an hour later. And what reason have they for causing my arrest? I inquired. Because you propose addressing a meeting to-night against a friend of Mr. Morrison. Was not that some-

thing outrageous? The person who reported the fact to me held the news from a third party who had overheard a telephone message between a government official and a partisan of Mr. Morrison. The former, whom I do not intend to name, but whose identity I shall willingly disclose before a committee, had instructed the latter to call on a certain local magistrate, whose name I know but do not propose to give, and there to have warrants signed in blank and sent back to him. That outrageous deed was to be perpetrated against me that very night before the meeting took place. You will admit, Sir, that such a proceeding was not evidence of very much bravery on the part of the opponent which I was to meet. And to think that I was spared the prisoner's cell, through the mere kindness of a supporter of Mr. Morrison who absolutely condemned such a proceeding.

I should make plain to you Mr. Speaker, that I was not upset by the news; nay, more, I regret that the deed was not perpetrated. For it would have enabled me to satisfy the electors of other counties, as well as my own, as to the corrupting influence exerted over elections in the province of Manitoba, under the kindly eye of the Government of that province and particularly of the hon. Minister of Public Works. That same plan of arresting Mr. Richardson's friends, those who supported him by word and deed, was carried out in every other part of the county and the whole story has been revealed to us by the affidavits which the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) has read to the House. I shall not dwell any longer on that subject. However, let me point out how grievous it is to have recourse to such means or tolerate their use in this twentieth century and in this Canada of ours. Readers of history will remember that in the France of old lettres-de-cachet were granted by the Sovereign just to satisfy the whim of some woman or for some such futile reason, and by this means innocent people were sent to the Bastille, or beheaded, without having had an opportunity of defending themselves. The people at last revolted, and rightly so. Is it not aggravating to find that in this beautiful country of ours, at the very moment the Government propose sending millions to Great Britain, ministers should busy themselves winning elections through terror and the contempt of all liberty recognized and guaranteed by the law.

Sir, there is another infernal machine which has been doing service in the hands of the organizers of that election; I mean the drinking house. Of course, I do not mean to throw blame on all the hotelkeepers in the constituency, for there are some very honest people among them. But every

Mr. BOYER.