

the Conservative candidate had a majority at that polling-booth. It was the same in Kootenay; it was the same in Yale-Cariboo; wherever he went a stampede followed to the Conservative party. (Renewed laughter.) And, Mr. Speaker, even later than this, as you well know, there has been a by-election in Nanaimo for this House, and the hon. gentleman saw another opportunity to make more speeches, so he hied him there, but fortunately for the Liberal candidate, he only arrived the night before the election; had he been a week earlier the candidate would certainly have lost his deposit, but, as it was, he only lost by three or four hundred votes. (Loud laughter.)

My friend has charged me, in this debate, with being a Solomon. I certainly have never laid any particular claims to wisdom upon any particular subject. Unlike my hon. friend from Delta I do not profess to be an expert on every question which comes before this House. Why, you well know, Mr. Speaker, if a legal question comes up, if a question is brought before this House requiring the knowledge and skill of a legal mind such as the hon. member for Rossland, his place is at once taken by the hon. member for Delta, who can enlighten the house upon this question as well as upon all others. For instance, if a question of medicine arises in this House in connection with any particular measure, the hon. member for Cranbrook is at once placed to one side, and the hon. member for Delta usurps his position; we all know that he is an expert on farming, but unfortunately he does not confine himself to that of which he knows most; but upon every conceivable question, as I have already said, which is ever discussed in this House, the hon. gentleman is not averse to standing in his place and for hours at a time shedding his knowledge and light upon the members present. Why, Mr. Speaker, in the course of the debate he complained of the commission which the Hon. the Commissioner of Finance had appointed a few years ago, dealing with the taxation question, in which several prominent business men were called in by him to assist and aid in this important work. Here we find the hon. member for Delta again appearing on the scene. For several hours he gave evidence before that Commission to show them upon what financial basis the country should be established. And now, in the course of this debate, he complains of the amount of public money which was paid for that Commission. Why, Mr. Speaker, I have looked into the public accounts and find that there

was only the small sum of \$1,000 disbursed in that connection. And surely the hon. member for Delta does not begrudge the payment of a single dollar of that amount when it gave him the opportunity of showing the country his wisdom on the financial question. (Laughter.)

"TALKING JOHN"

But, Mr. Speaker, the country takes the honorable gentleman at the estimate which properly belongs to him. He has gone from one end of this Province to the other during the late elections, and I have shown you the result of his eloquence, and today he has lost the old sobriquet of "honest John," and is now known all over the country as "talking John."

LIBERAL GRAFT

I noticed a few days ago that the seat of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition was vacant in this House, and found later on, from information, that he had attended a Liberal banquet in Vancouver. And, according to reports, the same old question again arose, when several persons present had tried to explain the reason why they had lost the late elections. Why the hon. gentleman should go to Vancouver to expect any solace from that Conservative seat, I am at a loss to understand. Strange to say, at this meeting, instead of blaming me for speeches which I had delivered, which had stampeded the country, nor, on the other hand, blaming it to a distorted telegram which had appeared in the Colonist newspaper, the speakers were very outspoken in laying the whole cause of their defeat upon the record of Liberalism on the question of graft. (Government applause.) One young man of that city went so far as to say that no party could expect to win in such conditions as they were laboring under.

Mr. Macdonald: Who said that?

Hon. Mr. Bowser: The report says Dr. Kendall.

Mr. Macdonald: Dr. Kendall said nothing of the kind.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: I will accept the statement of the hon. gentleman; but there evidently was a discussion on graft, because I see that Mr. W. W. B. McInnes undertook to explain the Liberal system of patronage in this Province. (Applause.)

Mr. Macdonald: Not in this Province, but in Vancouver alone.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: Well, we will confine it to Vancouver, because, after all, Vancouver is the hub, the political hub of this Province. And in this connection, this discussion must have been