

asking for my resignation, I would not wish to sit here in this House.

Mr. BEST: If that be so, the hon. member should have resigned before he took his seat because much less than 60 per cent of the electors voted for him. That people should want to have a law permitting the election of a member by a majority of say one vote—and that means a good deal less than 60 per cent of the electors—and at the same time stating that 60 per cent should be required to recall him, is something that I cannot understand. As regards the recall, I know that, in the case of provincial members, I heard a candidate say on the day of the nomination: "My resignation is now in the hands of the committee." So his resignation was there. I do not know why we should have in this country a law whereby in the case of a member who is elected by a majority of five or ten in his constituency, should have to resign, if ten or twelve men should get sore on him for something he has done, perhaps in the best interest of the country, they should be able to get together all that voted for him and five or six more—and that would not be 60 per cent of the electors of the constituency. Hon. members are elected for a term of five years at the longest, and one man cannot ruin this country in that time even if he makes some mistakes. There is not in the whole Dominion any constituency in which nearly all the electors think that their representative votes or does wrong on any particular occasion. Therefore, it is very wrong to have any law that will allow a few people, if they get sore on any member, to cause him to resign his seat, thus bringing on another election. Such a system is vicious and should not be allowed. I therefore, heartily support the amendment of the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Tweedie).

Mr. GOULD: I am glad to have an opportunity of making a few remarks to the committee upon this question. It seems to me that I have been the direct cause of this amendment, and of the speeches that have been made supporting it. It has occurred to me to ask why, seeing that this has been a public question in all parts of the Dominion of Canada for fifteen years, the hon. gentleman who moves this amendment today has not thought so before, although he had many opportunities to do so. If he is now, as he says, asking in the interest of truth and justice, why has he so long refrained from bringing the matter to the attention of the House.

Mr. TWEEDIE: Might I be allowed to make a correction? My hon. friend (Mr. Gould) is not the direct cause of this. This is simply a question of principle, and the reason it was not taken up in the House before was that there are for the first time members holding seats in this House who have acknowledged on the floor of this House that they have signed such an agreement as to resigning.

Mr. GOULD: I accept the hon. gentleman's explanation, but I did not wish to infer at all that this amendment has been submitted in any spirit of vindictiveness. I appreciate very much the manner in which the hon. members for both Calgary East (Mr. Redman), and Calgary West (Mr. Tweedie), presented their arguments. I would again revert to this, that evidence has been submitted today that on the provincial platforms of Alberta, mark you, a Conservative party and mark you further, while they are in opposition—and that suggests the argument that they are equally as pure while they are in opposition as they are while in office—approve of the recall. The hon. gentleman for Calgary West has been living in Alberta, and it is not recorded, or at least I have not yet met the evidence, that his voice has ever been raised in provincial politics to denounce this vicious recall which is being advocated by the Tory party.

Mr. TWEEDIE: If the hon. member had been living in Alberta privately or publicly, he would have known many years ago my feelings on that matter, and they have never changed. I have always opposed that in convention and out of convention.

Mr. GOULD: You were the leader of the Conservative party out there, and yet you allowed that party to adopt that principle in their platform.

Mr. TWEEDIE: If I may again correct the hon. member, I was not the leader of the Conservative party, and I never would allow any party to which I belong to have any such plank in their platform.

Mr. GOULD: Very well. I am, however, pleased that this has come to the surface today, and I am also pleased that evidence has been submitted that the Conservatives of Alberta have been more guilty than possibly I have been myself. You try to explain the recall, and again you say "resignation in the hands of the committee." I have a recollection of April 13, when I ex-