

of Alberta, that absolutely ignored the day of election, that absolutely ignored the machinery of the statute for the holding of elections. It is the same machine that manufactured ballots, placed those ballots in the boxes, and declared the representative elected by reason of the ballots marked by the deputy returning officer himself.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—When the hon. gentleman refers to Nova Scotia is he referring to the election in Queen's county in 1891?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I am not referring to that. I am referring to the operations of the machine generally. I have no doubt it was in operation at the time and in the place mentioned by my hon. friend and he would doubtless be well aware of the fact. It must be a matter of satisfaction to both Conservatives and Liberals that at last this crisis has been reached, and that public opinion has been so outraged that at last there is a probability of there being placed upon the statute-book laws which will guarantee some honesty in elections hereafter. It has been said that one party is as bad as the other, and I was rather astonished to find that no less an authority than the Prime Minister of this Dominion ventured to express palliation for the wrongs and crimes that had been committed on the ground that both parties were equally to blame. This I deny. Upon this I take issue. I say without fear of contradiction—and I think I can establish to the satisfaction of even hon. gentlemen on the other side of the Chamber that my statement is correct—that the Conservative party has never preached impeccability, though they have never claimed to be Puritans of the cherubic type, yet they have played the game fairly and honestly in comparison with the Liberal party and have not been guilty of one-hundredth part of the violations of the election laws that from time to time have characterized the elections of the Liberal party throughout the Dominion. I will prove it in this way. By whom are those election scandals being exposed to-day? It has been said that the exposures which have taken place in the province of Ontario would not have taken place had not a Conservative administration been administering the affairs of this

province, and the Liberal party have pointed out from time to time since the beginning of these scandals that it was due to the local provincial government having put in operation the criminal machinery of the Dominion that those exposures were being made. Let me say to hon. gentleman that that truly is the case. I contend that if a Conservative local administration were not administering the criminal law of Ontario to-day, these scandals would not have been exposed. They would have been hidden. They would have been concealed in the recesses of the mysteries of the Liberal party, as have been the scandals of many years gone by; but very fortunately for the morals of this Dominion very fortunately for the public life of the Dominion the criminal law of Ontario has been set in motion by a government that feels that the responsibility rests upon it to vindicate the laws of this Dominion. Who was it exposed the scandals in Manitoba, by which, as my hon. friend to my right has said, thousands of electors have been defrauded of their franchise? A Conservative government. They have exposed the scandals which have seen the light of day in the province of Manitoba. Let me say to hon. gentlemen that throughout the various provinces of the Dominion, beginning in New Brunswick and extending through to British Columbia, the Liberal party in local affairs since confederation has administered the affairs of those provinces for a longer period than the Conservative party. The criminal machinery of the Dominion of Canada has been in the hands of the local Liberal administrations of those provinces, I venture to say for 75 per cent of the time since confederation, and notwithstanding the fact that though that machinery could have been set in motion by the Liberal party from the Atlantic to the Pacific, can hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House point out to me wherein, notwithstanding the fact that the machinery was in the hands of the Liberal party, they have succeeded in exposing any parallel electoral scandals for which the Conservative party was guilty since confederation down to the present? I venture to say that no hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House or on this side will point out a solitary instance in which there has