

head. This required a bye-election; I went back to my constituents in the City of Vancouver, and if my hon. friends opposite had been honest in connection with these charges which they had made before and since in reference to my statement on the eve of the local election, they then had the opportunity to come into the City of Vancouver and contest that seat and place a Liberal candidate against me. But where do we find them? Dumb as oysters on that occasion. And had it not been for the Socialists placing a Socialist candidate in the field, I would have been returned by acclamation. But, so far as the Liberals are concerned, they had not the hardihood to dare place a Liberal to contest that election. (Applause.)

Mr. Oliver: That information was not before us at that time.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: It was certainly before this House before I went back for re-election.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the reasons given for the defeat of the Liberal candidates in the late Dominion election is owing to a certain telegram which was transmitted by Mr. Borden to the Colonist newspaper, published in this city. They apparently now try to lay the blame, that the reason of the elections going as they did was owing to this telegram. Why, Mr. Speaker, don't they face the actual situation? The fact is that the Province of British Columbia is not in accord with the Liberal party, just as the majority of the electors in this whole Dominion were not with our party in the recent election in October last, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was again returned to power. But there is this great difference, Mr. Speaker, that we are manly enough, on our part, to admit it, and the Liberals are not. (Applause.)

Now, the hon. member for Delta asked me where I was in the late election in Yale-Cariboo that I did not proceed to that district in order to meet the late Duncan Ross. Well, I should think that there should be at least some decency amongst the members of this Legislature. At that time, as my friend well knows, I was confined to my sick bed. I was only able to make one speech after returning from the contest in Eastern Canada, and in my own constituency. And still the hon. gentleman will stand up in his place in this house and ask me where I was in that Dominion election. I may say this, that Mr. Ross himself was fair enough, so I have been informed, in one of the meetings held in his own constituency, to state that he understood that I was incapacitated, and therefore on that account had not

taken part in the campaign in his riding. I hope, however, that the time may yet come, in the not far distant future, when I will be able to meet Mr. Duncan Ross. My hon. friend from Delta says that perhaps we may not meet in this world, but in another one; well, I only hope, Mr. Speaker, that when I pass from this world I shall not find myself in the same one as Mr. Duncan Ross. (Loud laughter.) He also states that he has preceded me. No doubt he has—because he certainly is politically dead—to use a favorite and classic expression of the Hon. Mr. Templeman, Mr. Duncan Ross is “as dead as Julius Caesar.” (Laughter and applause.)

But, sir, to come back to the question of the dispute between the late Duncan Ross and myself, I wish to draw your attention to a speech which that hon. gentleman delivered at the City of Greenwood, and which was reported in his own paper, the Boundary Creek Times, shortly before his election. He stated then, in reference to the charges which he was making against me, that “if the charges were not true, then he had no right to the suffrages of the people; if they were true, then Mr. Bowser has no right in public life, and his gown should be taken from him for unprofessional conduct; it was for the people to decide.” Well, Mr. Speaker, the people have decided in Yale-Cariboo, and with no uncertain sound; they have settled the question for all time to come as to the credibility of the late Duncan Ross and myself, by such a large and overwhelming majority against Mr. Ross, that I have no cause to complain as to the result of the verdict which the jury of Yale-Cariboo have rendered, and am therefore content to allow it to remain in their hands. (Applause.)

Now, speaking on the question of the late Dominion elections Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the hon. member for Delta had taken considerable part in the campaign, as you know: prior to that election, and even in this debate he has posed as a friend and advocate of what he calls the “persecuted” fishermen; and had gone through the whole Fraser valley in his own riding, amongst them, speaking on every hand, taking up their cause, agitating their claims whenever an opportunity offered, and at the same time urging them to vote for the Liberal candidate; with the result that every single fisherman voted for Mr. Taylor, the Conservative candidate of that constituency. (Laughter.) Even in East Delta, in the old school-house where he had been practising his speeches, in the early days of his political career,