

believe there is very good foundation for the charge, that another employee of the Department of the Interior perpetrated exactly the same fraud, that is to say, he went up into the distant country away to the north and there himself wrote out false lists and marked ballots for the Liberal, for the coercionist candidate. Then again we have heard of a very strong and well supported case of fraud in regard to the election in Regina city. If he studied the papers he would also find that in the city of Moosejaw so great was the anticipation that the ballot boxes would be interfered with there that the provincial righters had to keep an armed guard night and day over those boxes and there is no doubt that throughout the length and breadth of the province of Saskatchewan there was the greatest amount of fraud in regard to this election. In addition to all this there were all the forces of misrepresentation and of intimidation and undue influence by federal officials. At the vote which was cast on December 13 last there an increase of some 35 per cent over the votes which were cast just one year previously and I think it is not too much to say that one-quarter of the votes which were cast at this election were cast by men who were dependent upon the government of the day in regard to obtaining patents for the lands for which they had entered and that they were dependent also upon the good-will of the government officials to whom it would be perfectly easy, and it is perfectly easy, to either facilitate the granting of their patents or else to throw every obstacle in the way, and I know perfectly well that this has been done. One gentleman told me he had a message sent to him, through his son, from the Dominion lands agent in his district. The message was to this effect: Tell your father if he wants his patent he had better take a little less active part in the election. That was the message and I think it must be clear to any one here present that the officials of that department have an enormous amount of influence in regard to these matters and that they exercised it in the most unlawful way. The Minister of the Interior himself must know this and I think that in view of the resolution which was passed unanimously by this House last summer, that it is only fair to ask him whether, if it is proved to him that one of his officials up there has taken an active part in this election he is prepared to dismiss that official. I think that is a fair question to ask him. I know that in one instance the Minister of the Interior himself took the platform in support of a coercionist candidate and the chairman of his meeting the most active Liberal in that district was his own sub-agent for Dominion lands. It appears to me that it would be impossible to show a greater contempt for the authority of this House than was shown in many instances in the Northwest during the last

Mr. LAKE.

election. There has been also a most significant diminution in the Liberal majority throughout that country. In the year 1904, there was a Liberal majority cast of 4,300 votes, whereas in 1905 that majority had come down to 1,432. At any rate that is what is claimed but I think we have ample evidence already that a considerable number of those votes were bogus votes simply marked by the election officials themselves and not by the people of the country. And how was this majority composed, Mr. Speaker? I took the trouble to analyse the vote in the district in which my own property is situated, a district with which I am pretty well acquainted.

I find that of the English speaking vote in that district, two and a half to one was the proportion in favour of the provincial rights candidate, or 642 votes to 265; whereas of the foreign speaking vote the majority against the provincial rights candidate and in favour of the coercionist candidate was upwards of eight to one, or 380 to 45. I am not surprised that under these circumstances the member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Knowles) should speak of the Doukhobors and the Galicians as being such very good friends of his. The figures I have given in regard to my own district are not isolated; you will find that similar figures exist in other parts of the country. It is a thing which ought to be expected, because we know that these immigrants who come from continental Europe have been accustomed all their lives to be under the influence of officialdom, and so they came especially under the influence of the officials of this government, and that influence, as far as my experience goes, is always partisan. Then, these same European immigrants, intelligent men as most of them are, educated men as some of them are, still they do not have the opportunity of studying the questions of the day in the same manner as English speaking immigrants. And for the present at any rate they have not the same opportunity of casting an intelligent vote on public questions. When the matter is put before them they are more likely to say: I will vote for my own interest and be quite sure that I can get my land from this government. We have heard it claimed by the government to-day, that the legislation of last year was endorsed by the people. Well, the federal government were extremely anxious that the people should endorse that legislation, and they had a deep interest in its endorsement by the people of the west. They have profited by the elections in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and that being so, I claim they must accept their full share of the responsibility from the very beginning for the methods by which that success was secured. The very first step in the direction of obtaining that success is to be found in the gerrymander which was perpetrated here last session. When you look back at what has since taken place, it will be seen that