

to homesteaders; they are entitled to express them to men under their control; they are entitled to go upon public platforms and express them; they are entitled to express them as presidents and officers of Liberal organizations.

That is the idea of the Minister of the Interior as to the way in which a solemn resolution of this House, unanimously passed, should be observed by himself and by his officers in the west. And these officers felt very much encouraged. We do not know how many feats of daring they performed; we do not know to what extent their efforts along certain lines have prevailed in the west. But we know that the curtain has been lifted just a little in one or two places, and we have a slight idea of the wonderful things which the officers of the Interior have accomplished in bringing about that endorsement of the government which has been referred to to-day with so much fervour by the gentlemen who moved and seconded the address to His Excellency. Two of these men, John F. Nelson, fishery inspector, and Charles Sutherland, Indian farm inspector, were polling officers, officials of the government of this country. Encouraged, I presume, by the precepts of the Minister of the Interior to which I have just alluded, they became polling officers, and they went just one step in advance of anything that has ever been perpetrated in the way of election frauds, even under the administration which has been in power since 1896. I do not know whether these men have been dismissed. Can the Minister of the Interior tell me whether they have been?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior). Does the hon. gentleman want an answer?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. OLIVER. Well, one of the gentlemen was not in the employ of the Department of the Interior, therefore he was not dismissed. The other gentleman was in the employ of the Indian Department and has been dismissed.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I presume that the same course will be followed with him as was followed with the postmaster at Thesalon, and with the Indian Agent at Macleod. In three months we will find this gentleman whose services certainly deserve to be rewarded, promoted to another post, at a better salary, and still enjoying the patronage of the government of this country. That is the course which has been taken in a recent instance by this government with regard to public officials. Well, these gentlemen did not go through some of the usual formalities in ballot swindling which have been carried out by the tools, or the employees, of the Liberal machine in Ontario; they did not go through the formality of manipulating or switching ballots,

they conceived a much more brilliant idea. They were dispatched to the back townships, from which the Prime Minister of the Territories announced that he expected a very strong support indeed, and he got it. The back townships were what he relied upon, and those men were determined to see that the back townships duly supported him. A ballot box was taken with them; the journey to the north was long and wearisome, and these gentlemen stopped by the wayside in some small community. They marked one hundred and fifty ballots or thereabouts, for the Liberal candidate, they did not give the Conservatives, the Provincial Rights candidate, the benefit of a single ballot; and they returned shortly after the election with the news of a magnificent sweep in the north in the cause of good government. The Minister of the Interior seems to imagine that he has done a remarkable thing in dismissing one of these men, that he has accomplished the wonderful feat in dismissing him. Is this man at large? Is he still walking as a free man in the Northwest? With whom is the administration of justice vested in that country? So far as it is not vested in the provincial government, it is vested in this government, and one would think that when one of their own officials, although acting upon the precept of a minister of the Crown, had seen fit to commit a fraud of that kind, justice would not be slow to pursue him. For what reason have not some steps been taken to bring these men to justice? This government, I presume, will throw the responsibility upon the provincial government, a government headed by the gentleman who has been eulogized so highly to-day by the mover of this resolution. Then the provincial government will say, I imagine, that as this man was an officer of the Dominion government, it is fitting that this government should take measures for his speedy and condign punishment. But it is the same old story. The Prime Minister smiles. I venture to think, Mr. Speaker, that this is not a matter for merriment.

Sir, we have had in this country a pretty long history of ballot frauds. We remember that a man by the name of Pritchett swore that he was employed by the Liberal machine to commit countless ballot frauds, not only that, but to train others to commit them. He went to the United States. He was supported there for a certain time by a salary, the source of which I do not know—I am not sure whether any hon. gentleman on the other side of the House could give us any information on that subject. He was supported there for a time, and when his salary did not reach him with the accustomed regularity, he came back to Canada. He made affidavits in the United States. We asked the government why they did not prosecute him, and the answer