

power, whether it were Grit or Tory. I do not say whether or not the charges were true, but this much I will say: that while the Opposition—that is, the direct Opposition—has opposed almost everything that the Government has submitted to the House, there has not been even a whisper against the honour, the honesty and the integrity of the members of this Government. That is one reason why I think the Government should remain in power. When I get a man who is naturally honest I want to keep him as long as I can.

Upon what policy has it been suggested by the Opposition or by the cross-benchers that we should appeal to the country? None that I know of. The only reason given is that we should appeal to the democracy of Canada. Well, Sir, it seems to me that this term "democracy" is being horribly overworked in these days. I recall that in the election of 1911 the members of the Tory party to which I belonged—and I offer no excuses for belonging to it; I am not ashamed of the Tory party—were charged with rolling the Union Jack around themselves and making patriots of themselves. The Opposition at that time said, and I rather agreed with them, that they did not have to get out on the housetops and holler out their patriotism; that they were patriotic and everybody knew it. I sometimes felt that they were right. I knew that I was a sufficiently good British subject and that I did not consider it necessary to inform people of that fact. Well, these very same gentlemen who told us at that time that they did not have to get out and holler their patriotism from the housetops are to-day shouting from the same housetops that they are democrats. I am sufficiently a democrat and sufficiently a believer in democracy to make it unnecessary for me to tell it to anybody. One of the reasons why I intend to support this Government is because in my humble opinion every piece of legislation that they have submitted to this House, without a single exception, has been democratic and in the interests of the common people of Canada.

At this late hour I will not go over the list. I am sorry that the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Gould) is not in his seat, because he comes with the latest expression of opinion from the people of western Canada, his constituency adjoining mine. I should like to know what he has brought back as an expression of opinion from the common, ordinary people of western Canada, a very democratic people, in regard to legislation which has been sub-

mitted to this House by the Government and which has been passed. Let me take for instance the question of woman suffrage. Was that a democratic measure? Was it a thing you would expect from an autocratic government? Autocratic, hon. members opposite call it; because, they say, it has made most of its legislation by orders in council. Just in parenthesis, let me say, in the language, I think, of an American, that sometimes we have to enthroned autocracy temporarily in order to save democracy, and that was the case while the war was on. During that period we were all willing to forgive a certain amount of autocracy. But to come back to the point I was making, let me ask whether the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Gould)—and the hon. member for Maple Creek (Mr. Maharg) was in the West at that time and he can correct me if I am wrong—appealed to the electors of Assiniboia for election in opposition to that democratic measure, namely, woman suffrage? Not a bit of it. He knew better than to attempt to do so. He knew very well that the people were behind the Government in passing that Bill. And the same is true in regard to the Representation Act. At the time of that election this Parliament had before it the Grand Trunk Acquisition Bill. Was that a democratic measure? Was that in the interest of the Canadian people, to take from those who are generally classed as capitalists, and moneyed people, the control of one of the great railway systems of Canada and to vest it in the hands of the common people? Did the hon. member for Assiniboia in that constituency oppose the action of this Government on that particular occasion? I should like to see him or any other person dare to go out into any constituency in western Canada and oppose the Government on that Bill. Similarly, every other Bill that has been brought in by this Government and passed could have been fought out in that constituency. Was it? Never a particle of opposition—

An hon. MEMBER: Prohibition.

Mr. COWAN: You could not take a jug of whiskey into Assiniboia at all. I know that constituency sufficiently well to know that. The people would not have anything to do with it. I will only say that the hon. member for Assiniboia was not elected by whiskey, and if he had opposed the passing of the legislation which we did pass, he would never have been here. What then is the ground upon which—and to-