

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED. I might say to my hon. friend that it would take me a week or more to enumerate the various charges which have not only been brought to light, but established in courts throughout this Dominion in the last three months. I should be very sorry to say that the rank and file of the Liberal party have been responsible for the charges which have thus been established, but I do say without any hesitation that the Liberal party throughout the Dominion have profited by those violations of the electoral laws, not only the federal party in the Dominion, but the various local provincial governments, those that have gone down to defeat as well as those that are administering the affairs of their respective provinces to-day, notwithstanding their repudiation of responsibility of these charges. Under these circumstances, it is recognized that the duty has been cast upon the Liberal party of purging the public life of Canada to-day of the blot which has been left upon it, and which has besmirched the honesty not only of public but of private life in Canada by reason of the commission of these crimes. It therefore has fallen to the duty of the Liberal party, to legislate, to guarantee electoral honesty in the future, and I am satisfied that both parties will join hand in hand in making that legislation as restrictive and as perfect as it can possibly be placed upon the statute-book. It is idle for the government to deny responsibility, as my hon. friend has just inferentially indicated by the question which he has asked me. Can we for one moment conceive that the gangs of political pluggers, switchers and bribers that have passed up and down this Dominion for some years, have been set in motion of their own volition? It must appeal to the intelligence of every public man that this machine, made up of those law-breakers would not have been set in motion by themselves. They work according to certain plans, according to certain schemes. They carried on certain campaigns. They have expended not only small amounts, but very large amounts of money. By whom were those moneys furnished? By whom were those plans conceived? By whom were those campaigns devised? It certainly was not by the instruments who have been violating the law in a way never before equalled. It must

Hon. Mr. POWER.

have been at the instance of some of the leaders of the party to which they belonged. If my hon. friend from Halifax has been following the Toronto papers of late he would have read of the Liberal procession before the Toronto police court, which has been appearing there week after week during the investigation. He would have read of the pluggers who told of opening and plugging ballot boxes, of the switchers who held classes and educated deputy returning officers to switch ballots. He would have read of the contractors of the government who contributed funds from time to time to the bribers that the electors of the country might be debauched. He would have read of the briber who boasted of buying his votes by the dozen. He would have read of the robber who plainly admitted of his stealing whole constituencies. I say that this was part of one great scheme, and it has been spreading throughout the whole Dominion, and we as a people who boast of honour, of honesty, of conscience, who observe religion and the laws of morality, I say it falls not only upon us but particularly upon these two branches of parliament to see that there is placed upon the statute-book of this session a law which will guarantee to the people of this Dominion electoral honesty. I might say hon. gentlemen that this machine has not been confined to Ontario. It has been operating in all the other provinces of the Dominion. It has been operating in New Brunswick, in Nova Scotia, in Quebec, in Ontario, in Manitoba, in the latter it has worked the thin red line device, and by the thin red line has struck out the names of hundreds of electors, and has thus defrauded the electorate of the franchise to which they were entitled. My hon. friend from Marshfield has properly said thousands of electors have thus been defrauded of their right of exercising the franchise. It is the same machine that was operating during the last local election in the province of Saskatchewan, when the pluggers, entirely regardless of the penalties of the law, filled the ballot boxes with ballots of their own manufacture and declared members elected entirely irrespective of all the electoral machinery on the statute-book. It was the same machine that operated in the province