

was the only Conservative return from New Brunswick that did, and it was gazetted in ten days. The return from the county of Kent, where a Conservative was elected, was only four days in Ottawa before it was gazetted. So in King's county, four days; York, two days; Westmoreland, seven days; Victoria, four days; St. John, ten days. The hon. member for Northumberland, who was an independent, was kept out of his place for eighteen days. I do not know how that is; I do not know that any injustice has been done me, but I cannot understand the reason why these returns should be in the office of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery here so long without being gazetted. Was there not room enough in the *Gazette*? Is the *Gazette* confined to a certain number of sheets of paper so that when you fill those you cannot fill any more? I think more sheets could be added. There must have been some ulterior motive in this, and surely the Government could not be a party to a small matter like this. Surely those knights to whom people have to bow and take off their hats, could not be a party to a transaction of that kind. I think it must have been done by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and I think it was due to me that an explanation should be given of the reason my return which was made on the 8th of March and received on the 11th, was not gazetted until the 2nd of April, remaining for twenty-two days after being received. I think this official ought to give an account of his conduct in this matter. Of course the reply by hon. gentlemen opposite is: Oh, you have thirty days after you are gazetted, and your case is not prejudiced at all. But I did not know what was coming. I kept watching week after week, and I could not understand why my name did not appear in the *Gazette*. I really began to think I was not going to be gazetted at all. I think this is a sort of conduct that ought to be explained by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and a good tribunal before which to make that explanation is the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I think it is due to that officer also to give him a chance to state his reasons for treating members of the different parties in the way they have been treated.

Mr. BURDETT. I do not rise to add anything to this discussion, but as the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has kindly given me his personal attention, I do not desire his remarks to go unchallenged, or to show that I bear him any unfriendly feeling by passing them by without notice. I wish to say that, so far as I have been able to discover, there was only one man east of Kingston who had a vote in my riding. He was written to to come, and I suppose not being able to read his letter he placed it in the hands of the hon. member, or some other honest Tory, who endeavored, perhaps, to lay a trap to catch him. But in that he ignominiously failed, for the elector did not vote at my election at all. The only way they can unseat the member for East Hastings is by perjury, and I know how to doctor men who indulge in that, for I have doctored them before. I am much pleased to hear the hon. gentleman talk about political morality. It is the first glimmer of that kind of light which we have had from that side of the House. I can say for myself, and the hon. member for West Hastings (Mr. Robertson), that when we were through with an exciting contest, and everybody knew that the health of both of us was very poor, and that we were both physically unable to go through such a contest, except at the call of our friends, it was felt to be a manly and generous thing in both parties to leave both of us in the possession of our seats, and not to harass either by protests of any kind. But I have since learned that gentlemen whom the hon. member for South Leeds endeavors to set up as political moralists, have said that they would hound me until all that I would require would be a hearse to carry me to my grave.

Mr. GILLMOR.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Hastings). I believe, Sir, that I had the good fortune to be the first member whose name was transmitted by the returning officer to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and the first to be gazetted. The hon. member for Bothwell, in alluding to this return the other day, sought to leave the impression upon the House that the expedition with which it was made was due to its being made by a partisan returning officer, and to partisanship on the part of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery; and when I rose in my seat and told him that the returning officer in my riding was a Reformer, there was great applause and clapping among the members of the Opposition. It is the old story, that whatever may be considered criminal or objectionable on the part of an official who may be a Conservative, is a commendable, virtuous and laudable act on the part of the official who may be a Reformer. Now, Sir, regarding the alleged arrangements which has been alluded to by my hon. friend from East Hastings (Mr. Burdett), I am very glad to see that hon. gentleman rise in his place and acquit me and my friends of any breach of faith or trust in connection with the arrangement which he has referred to as having been made by the political friends of both of us in our respective ridings. On two or three occasions the friends of the hon. member for East Hastings waited upon me and said to me that if I would enter into an agreement or arrangement that there should be no protest in East Hastings, West Hastings would not be protested. I replied that it was absolutely absurd to ask me to enter into an arrangement for the entire electorate of East Hastings; that so far as I was personally concerned, having already gone through the worry of an election, and the anxiety and expense of an election protest, I had no desire to go into another, and that any influence I could use with my friends in East Hastings, it would give me great pleasure to use in the endeavor to bring that arrangement about. Subsequently a meeting of the Reform Association of West Hastings was held, and a member of that association afterwards told me that the hon. member for East Hastings had not only refused to enter a protest in the west riding, but had declined to contribute any funds towards one. Meeting the hon. member subsequently I told him I felt it my duty not only to file no protest myself against him, but to endeavor to persuade my friends in East Hastings not to do so. So far as I was concerned, I carried out that promise. I felt, as the hon. member has said, that both of us were not enjoying very good health; both desired to avoid a protest, and I used all the influence I could to prevent it. I supposed that was the conclusion which had been come to, and it was not until I saw in the papers that a protest had been filed against the hon. gentleman, that I was aware that East Hastings was protested. I may say that the chairman of my committee, who has a great deal of influence in East Hastings, as well as in my own riding, also did all he could to endeavor to prevent that protest, and the gentleman who has entered it has done it on his own responsibility. I think he both signed the petition and filed it himself, and those who have the pleasure of knowing John White, the late member for East Hastings, and who know his pugnacious and pugilistic proclivities, know that you might as well try to turn the Chaudière up stream as to persuade him to abandon any course which he makes up his mind to pursue. I thought it my duty to make this explanation. I do not know to what to attribute all this great expenditure of eloquence, this consumption of gas, this great waste of time and money to the country, and these charges against the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery of dereliction of duty, malfeasance of office, and all that sort of thing. I have reason to believe all these complaints would not have been heard of in this House had our friends on the other side not been chagrined and disappointed in being still