

this election. The other point is that whereas two men who were found guilty of personation, a serious offence under the law, and fined for it, were given bail immediately upon their arrest, while free citizens of a supposedly free country, for the exercise of the elementary right of free speech, were committed to jail and refused bail, refused counsel, their friends refused access to them, and treated as though they were convicted criminals. But the two men who were criminals were given every consideration—were released immediately on bail, and were conveniently tried half an hour before the witnesses who were subpoenaed were present to give evidence on their trial.

I think, Mr. Speaker, this case establishes beyond any question the fact that in the province of Manitoba the administration of justice is absolutely in the hands of the provincial government for the party purposes of the Provincial Conservative party, and equally for the party purposes of the Dominion Conservative party. We have the evidence of the Minister of Public Works himself upon the subject, and, while we have not the words of the Minister of the Interior, we have his presence at the meetings at which the announcements were made, and he has made no protest then or since against that condition of affairs.

I need not say, Mr. Speaker, that this remarkable condition of affairs in the province of Manitoba has produced some comment. It is a matter that has effect far beyond the boundaries of the constituency of Macdonald, far beyond the boundaries of Manitoba. For, if the right of free speech, if the liberty of the subject, can be denied in the province of Manitoba, then the right of free speech and the liberty of the subject can be denied in any part of this Dominion. This is a matter that touches every man, certainly every lover of fair play and liberty, throughout the Dominion. I find that this state of affairs has attracted the attention of the Presbyterian Synod of the province of Manitoba. And I wish to say here and now that, of all religious bodies in the world and of all councils of religious bodies in the world, a synod of the Presbyterian body requires the least apology for declaring itself for the right of free speech and liberty of the subject. For, whatever may be said against that body, it cannot be said but that it always has stood for human liberty and the right of free speech. The Synod of Manitoba sitting in Brandon on November 14, agreed to the following resolution:—

Under a painful sense of duty, this Synod deeply deplores recent evidence of the deliberate prostitution of justice to personal or party ends, and the trampling under foot the

sacred rights of citizens to individual liberty and fair trial.

A meeting of residents of the province of Manitoba was held in the city of Winnipeg on Friday night last, and the following resolution was adopted:—

That the Canadian citizens here assembled regard with abhorrence and alarm the conduct of the Manitoba authorities charged with the administration of justice, in arresting, by executive order, British citizens, holding them in prison by refusal of bail, and finally abandoning the case without the preferment of charges to which they might make answer according to the law.

That this action, for which the Prime Minister and Government of this province are responsible, was subversive of freedom, was an exercise of absolutism repugnant to the letter and the spirit of British law, and constituted such an offence against the lawful rights of the individual as to impose upon the people as their first duty the obligation of vindicating the law and re-establishing in this province the liberty of the subject.

Now, may I allude in a general way to the conditions which prevail in the province of Manitoba? The Government of that province has seen fit to enter the arena of Dominion politics, has seen fit to use its governmental and judicial machinery for the purpose not only of affecting a Dominion election but of denying to free citizens the rights of free speech and personal liberty. Therefore, it seems to me that the Government of Manitoba fairly brings itself within the range of, at any rate, the notice of this House and its members. And I will take the liberty of saying this, Mr. Speaker—that in the forty years during which Manitoba has existed as a province and has had the benefit of provincial government and of Dominion subsidies, there has not been as much to show for the direct benefit of the people, being the result of the work of the Government of that province, as is to be found in the province of Saskatchewan or the province of Alberta, the result of their seven years of provincial existence. I take the liberty of saying that the school system of Manitoba is a crime against the rising generation of that province. There is not a ten-mile stretch of good, substantial, permanent road within the province of Manitoba, the work of the Government of that province. There is no substantial, permanent bridging in that province for the benefit of the people by the Government of the province, as there is in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. The province of Manitoba took over the telephone system some years ago. They have run it for a number of years, and have run it into bankruptcy according to their own statement. They established an elevator system and operated it for one or two years, and ran that into bankruptcy and were compelled