

and endorsed of course by the letter or the word of mouth of the minister out of whose department the public work had to emanate. Everywhere this was so. My hon. friend said: Here is a solid Nova Scotia.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. In Heaven's name, why should it not be solid, if in one county alone sixty-six appropriations for public works were sent down and held up as the price of its support? My right hon. friend possibly may recall the circumstances of a devoted follower of his, brought out under his own wing, launched upon his constituency by my right hon. friend himself at a great public gathering, who on a postcard—of larger size than usual, of course—went into an elaborate calculation of how many dollars per minute, per hour, per week, per month and per year he had got for his constituents during the short three years that he had sat in parliament; and after having spread this over the large-sized postcard, he declared: 'And this is only the first fruit, this is just the budding promise of what I will do for you if you send me back to support the government.' But is it not rather sad and rather bemoaning, that in this great country all decency in that respect should be thrown to the winds, and from the Prime Minister down to the latest acquisition to the cabinet we should have a crusade based on promises of public works? Why send a member of the opposition, who can do nothing for you? Send a supporter of the government; here is his promise, and here is the endorsement of the minister. Well, sir, I am not going to follow out what influence that has upon a country. It is not an ennobling influence; it does not raise the morals of public life. It may be treated with the light laugh and even the sneer by the practical politician; but I tell you that we shall reap the fruits in future years in a deadening of the public conscience and a decline of public morality in this country.

What else has been interjected into this contest? 'How brave these gentlemen were in that time, long, long ago, when they believed in theories. Now my hon. friend says the Liberal party has discarded theories. Very true, very true; but the time was, in the memory of men sitting on either side of this House, when hon. gentlemen opposite had theories. One of the theories my right hon. friend held then, and held very strongly, was that there should be no partnership between provincial governments and the Dominion government—that provincial affairs were provincial and should be kept by themselves, that Dominion affairs were for the Dominion and should be kept for themselves, and that the joining of the two only led to corruption and a lower public life. Yet to-day, in this broad Dominion, who has been a greater sinner in this respect than the right

Mr. FOSTER.

hon. gentleman opposite. In all the elections which have taken place, since this government has been in office, the patronage and the power of the Dominion government have been joined with every possible provincial government for a common end, with of course the full and perfect understanding that in the time of trial these provincial governments would in like manner come to the rescue of the federal administration. A Liberal of the old English school! How often have we heard my right hon. friend use that phrase? A Liberal of the old English school, standing in Liberal shoes and yet allowing what my right hon. friend allowed to be done in the province of Quebec in order to destroy the Liberal-Conservative party in the provincial election! In the pursuance of such tactics, long before the Quebec provincial parliament should have finished its legal existence, advantage was taken of the result of the Dominion elections and the consequent disorganization of the Conservative party in that province, to spring a dissolution on the people and put out of the way that strongest safeguard of our constitution and the political freedom of our people—a fair, reasonable, virile opposition. No English Liberal of the old Liberal school would, I am sure, have countenanced any such course. A similar course was followed in the province of Ontario. In that province the people in 1898, 1902, and since, have refused to give their endorsement to the provincial government and are to-day trying to rid themselves of a government they have denounced, which represents but a minority of the people, and has been 'in articulo mortis' for the last five years. Seeing the dire straits into which that government has fallen, the right hon. gentleman, I understand, has come to its rescue, and is about to invoke the organization and power of this government in its behalf, and has sent around to the leading men of the party the watchword 'save the Ontario government.' These partnerships are demoralizing, they do not tell for pure politics and honest administration; and my hon. friend was badly advised when he saw fit to lend the power and patronage of this government to aid the local administration.

But there are still worse things being done. I do not know how well founded are the stories that are being told, but I do think that they merit the attention of this parliament; and I hope that at the proper time they will, if they have any foundation, be pressed to the very end, and that this parliament will do its duty. There are strange stories floating of the manipulation of the voters' lists in Manitoba, the Northwest and the Yukon. There are strange stories told of the doings of the enumerators in the far Yukon, where, I believe, the enumerators had to be hunted among the mountains in order that electors might obtain the lists which they had concealed about