

to-day be at the head of the government. That is my private opinion. We know a little of what was done and perhaps we may know more. We know that employees of this government were doing things that ought not to be done. The trial of those men took place in secret, and most of the particulars have not come out. We are told that those two men who were at that time employees, I believe, of the Minister of the Interior, were fined \$200 for pecketing the votes of two polls, putting them in without consulting any elector. Surely, Mr. Speaker, this is a new kind of voting machine they have got in the west. We are told that 150 votes were deposited without any one having marked the ballots but the deputy returning officer. If that is anything to glory in, Mr. Speaker, by all means let us glory, but remember that we are glorying in our shame. There never was an election held in any province in Canada about which we need to be more ashamed than that election in Saskatchewan. If this country is ever to be good and great it must begin to purify the methods by which we place public men in power. I contend that instead of saying that these people are the most satisfied, we should say that they have good grounds for being the most dissatisfied people in the Dominion of Canada. That is not the only constituency, I am told, in which work was done that should not have been done. I believe we will hear more about it, we will see further revelations that will show us that these methods were not confined to one constituency. I believe that Mr. Haultain was entitled to and did receive the larger part of the vote of those people who voted without let or hindrance for the cause of truth and right.

That is my belief. I travelled in that country about the time of the election and I had some means of hearing and knowing what was going on. I expected no different result from what I heard on that occasion. But this I think, Mr. Speaker, is nothing for us to rejoice at, it is far better for us to rejoice in a defeat if it were honourable than in a victory if it were dishonourable, and I contend that the reference to these provinces being in a state of great content is putting words into the mouth of a large section of that people that they do not feel. This I regret to have to say but I take this opportunity of stating what is only a personal view it is true, but a view which was formed to a certain extent from a journey I made throughout these provinces, and I believe that Mr. Haultain to-day has the confidence of more than one-half of the electorate of the province of Saskatchewan. That belief may be held to be falsely based, it is only of course a personal opinion but it is my strong personal conviction that he has that confidence and that therefore another government than the one that is now in power should be in office and if that is

the case I contend that the province of Saskatchewan has no great reason to rejoice at what the speech from the Throne says, that they are the most contented people on the face of the earth. I have made these few remarks because I believe these are serious matters and matters that call for more earnest consideration than has been given them by some of the hon. gentlemen of the government side, and I think that the country has reason to expect that more would be done by this parliament than the speech from the throne outlines.

Mr. R. N. WALSH (Huntingdon). I do not desire to detain the House by referring to other matters than the indemnity question which has been introduced. I wish at this, my first opportunity, to place myself on record. As I never at any time supported the measure I have no apologies to offer as some of the gentlemen who have spoken here to-day have done. As to the reasons advanced pro and con I have but one which is sufficient for me. That is, that my constituents are very much opposed to it, even our county Liberal association passed a strong resolution in opposition to it. I feel I am here to carry out their wishes and any measure which looks towards cancelling the increased indemnity, except the increase to the premier and to the judges will receive my support.

Mr. R. S. LAKE (Qu'Appelle). Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to occupy the time of the House to any very great extent this evening but I do think it is my duty as one of the members from the province of Saskatchewan to repudiate in the strongest possible manner the suggestion that has been made that the recent elections which have been held in that province have resulted in an endorsement of the Autonomy Acts which we passed last year. I believe, Sir, that the people of that country will be fully justified in considering that any action which may be taken by their legislature in regard to those Acts is not binding on them for all time to come. The election frauds which have been perpetrated in that country are to my mind some of the most shameful that have ever taken place either in this country or any other country in the world. When the Prime Minister was speaking this afternoon he treated it lightly and said that because some single fraud had come to light in one single constituency that it could not be taken as granted that the people of that country had not had an opportunity of exercising their full franchise. But the Prime Minister has not been fully informed as to what has been going on in the Northwest. He does not know that in more than one other constituency exactly the same species of fraud has been going on as was going on in the district of Prince Albert. In the district of Battleford it has been distinctly charged in the public press, and I