

courts where it was proved not only bribery of a most unblushing character prevailed, but also that seats had actually been stolen from their Conservative opponents by means the most disgraceful in our country's history, by the operation of 'the machine,' controlled by a gang of disreputable men moving from constituency to constituency. Is it surprising the reception accorded the hon. minister was of a freezing character though from a naturally hospitable people, for the inhabitants of that portion of Canada pride themselves on their independence and never fail to chastise their public men when once convinced of their dereliction of duty. But, not only was the Minister of the Interior's trip to the west a failure, so far as Dominion politics are concerned, but his friend, or ex-friend, the ex-Premier of the province of Manitoba, gives him credit for having accomplished the defeat of his government. And, I have no desire to detract from whatever credit is due to the hon. Minister of the Interior on this score, but am quite ready to concede that he played no small part in contributing to that highly laudable and commendable object, even though unwittingly. This being the case, I have no doubt that the people, in the exercise of that charity for which they are noted, may throw the mantle of forgetfulness over many of the minister's shortcomings, seeing that he assisted, though unintentionally on his part, in having turned out of office, a cabinet of disreputable politicians whose disgraceful actions have only recently been disclosed. The lesson taught by the Manitoba elections, is plain, and our Dominion ministers, if they desire to consult their own interest will do well to profit by it. That lesson is that they cannot with impunity override the wishes of the people; they cannot preach one set of principles and practice another; they cannot play fast and loose with the sentiments of the public without meeting with well-merited punishment at the first opportunity that offers. I am aware that members of this government have been warned time and again by members of their own political household, that, unless the Liberal party purged itself of those vicious elements that are dragging it down and are causing it to be a by-word, if they do not strike off the shackles that bind the party to these people, a similar fate awaits them when next they appeal to the electorate. However, they seem to be living in a fool's paradise, eating and drinking and being merry, knowing that to-morrow they politically die.

The victory of the Conservative party in Manitoba is one which even many of that party do not fully appreciate. It was a glorious victory, particularly taking into consideration the enormous odds we had to contend against. It was not only a fight against the local government, but against the Dominion government as well—the combined influence of both with their hordes of

officials openly and offensively working for the Liberal candidates, to say nothing of the large corporations, whose influence was thrown in the scale against us. I am sorry that the Minister of the Interior is not here, and that the acting minister also is absent, because I desire to draw the attention of the acting minister to something in this connection that I am sure the minister himself has cognizance of—and that is that officials of his department took an offensive part in elections. Some of these officials obtained their positions through their predecessors in office having been dismissed for their supposed partisanship. I can give two cases in my own constituency. Two officials had written letters, one to myself and one to a member of my committee, asking if they could not do something for me that would not expose them to the charge of partisanship, and expressing a desire for my success. This was the substance of each letter. The letters were not even replied to. These men never lifted a finger on my behalf, and not a single charge of partisanship has been entered against them; no suggestion has been made that they had taken part in elections. But these letters were stolen from the office of one of my committee men, and were sent to the Minister. And, because of these letters, he decapitated these men. And it will be remembered that on the floor of the House, the minister was asked how these letters came into his possession, and his reply was, that he was not at liberty to disclose that fact. In other words, the minister was in possession of stolen correspondence that properly belonged to myself, and on the strength of that he dismissed these innocent officials. This is the high politics he is noted for practising. But the point I desire to make is this—that the very men who superseded these gentlemen—the very men who took the places left vacant by their dismissal, left their offices, buttonholed electors, engaged in a personal canvass and resorted in some cases to means of political warfare which only the lower elements of the party would resort to. In an open and disgraceful manner, left their offices and canvassed electors, using their positions as government employees to influence votes, and in other respects resorting to acts that reflects anything but credit on them. His Yukon officials were on hand, debauching the electorate by the illegal and wholesale distribution of money, his timber inspectors, his homestead inspectors, his forest rangers, and other officials co-operating with provincial officials, setting at defiance the law laid down in this House, that officials must not take part in elections. Let the hon. gentleman, if he has any regard for consistency, institute inquiries into these cases, and I will furnish him with the names of officials and undertake to prove my accusations to the letter. We all remember the eloquent address of the Prime Minister in the first session of the