

than in either of the other two places, and much larger than at the general election. He (Hon. Mr. A.) doubted whether it would serve any useful purpose, but it might be interesting to know something about the inner history of the elections in Antigonish and Victoria. If there was one page of political history that did not commend itself to the public at large and about which the least said the better, for the Tory party and public morals generally, it would be the conditions that prevailed in the contests in these two counties.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) had under his hand a list of the public works promised in the by-election in the County of Antigonish, or alleged to have been promised by the Federal Government in that election, where hundreds of thousands of dollars were promised. Everyone in that County knew today that these promises were false, that they remained unfulfilled, yet the people, unfortunately, were influenced by them. He questioned whether it could be done again.

As to Victoria, he did not think his hon. friend would want the light turned on that election or should take much credit to his party for how it was done. However, we had the report of the judge who tried the case, and one or two statements in that would indicate the state of affairs that prevailed. It would be found as Appendix 29, the Journals of 1915.

It is the report of Mr. Justice Russell of the Supreme Court declaring void the election of Philip McLeod, who was elected at the by-election by a small majority—because of corrupt practices, of a widespread and dangerous character.

His hon. friend protested that it was a reflection upon the good people of the good County of Victoria. That was begging the issue. The good people of that County are not reflected upon. Those implicated were not natives of that County. For example, Dr. Joseph Hayes, Organizer for the Conservatives, and now Lt.-Col. Hayes, Hugh D. McLean, Charles McCormick, W. G. Fraser, J. M. McGillvary and Hugh Philpot, were not natives of Victoria County. They were the conspicuous ones. If his hon. friend wanted to take any moral glory to himself, he was entitled to it in the face of the record of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. Mr. Justice Russell said: "There is reason to believe that corrupt practices extensively prevailed in the election to which the petition relates; upwards of twenty witnesses were called on their subpoenas and failed to attend." There was disclosed a system of corruption of a most vile character. Perhaps no election contest in any Court had brought out more disreputable facts than that trial in connection with the by-election in the County of Victoria.

There were many things discussed in this debate which had very little relevancy to the financial condition of this Province. He quite agreed that one of the most important subjects that ought to interest members of this House was the matter of the financial condition and the general financial state of this Province. The hon. gentleman said we were here as a committee. We were more than a committee, we were a Board of Directors. And he would undertake to say, notwithstanding the remarks and criticisms of the hon. gentleman about an inclination on this side of the House to rush matters, that any competent Board of Directors sitting over the same business we had to