

further at this late hour. When the debate on this particular clause comes up, I shall not have the pleasure of being here, as I said at the opening of my remarks, and I wished to place on record my views as to the constitutional features of this resolution. I believe this resolution bad in the light of international law, bad in the light of commercial principle, and that it is a cheap subterfuge to deceive—as this Government have been deceiving since their accession to power—the electorate of this country.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Selkirk). Mr. Speaker, I desire to address myself for a few moments to a paragraph in the speech delivered last night by the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Roche). Speaking of the editor of the Winnipeg "Tribune," the hon. gentleman (Mr. Roche) said :

The hon. gentleman's training as editor of the Winnipeg "Tribune" has not been conducive to placing facts in a fair and proper light here. As to stuffing ballot boxes in Manitoba, there were many charges, but how many convictions? Out of all the arrests—some 18 or 20—there was but one conviction, and that on the gentleman's own evidence. And that, if I mistake not, was not so much a case of ballot stuffing. He initialled some ballots after the election, acting in concert with the stool-pigeon of the Liberal party, the man Freeborn. He was to take these to the Conservative committee and try to levy blackmail, and, if successful, to divide the spoils with the deputy returning officer, Freeborn. But the Conservative committee refused to be blackmailed, and Freeborn handed over the ballots to the Liberals. And it was a strange thing that the bondsman of the man who was arrested was the Liberal candidate, Dr. Rutherford. There was only one conviction, and that is how it happened. But how would the hon. gentleman explain what has taken place in the same constituency within the last week or so ?

This latter statement refers to recent transactions about which I know nothing. After accusing the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) in this way, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Roche) in the succeeding sentences becomes himself a brilliant example of that very fault which he attributes to my hon. friend the member for Lisgar. As to the statement that Freeborn was a stool pigeon of the Liberal party, the evidence in the election trials proved that Freeborn was sent by the Conservative organization of Ontario to the province of Manitoba, to work in conjunction with the Conservative organization there, for the purpose of stuffing the ballot boxes in that province, and for the purpose of instructing the deputy returning officers, appointees of the Conservative Government, as to the best method of stuffing these ballot boxes. It is a little bit peculiar—but I suppose we are not to be surprised—that, whenever the sins of the Conservative party find them out they at once seek to make it appear that the Liberal party is responsible for them. However, in this case we have the proof, that the Conservative orga-

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nizers were guilty, for we have a telegram from Robert Birmingham to Nat Boyd at Neepawa. The date of this telegram is the 20th of May; it was sent from Toronto, Ont., by Robert Birmingham to Nat Boyd, and it refers to this same man Freeborn. It reads as follows:—

He was a first-class man in North Bruce.

(Sgd.) ROBERT BIRMINGHAM.

That telegram came out in evidence at the election trial, and I think that it disposes of the charge that Freeborn was a stool pigeon of the Liberal party. The facts in this connection were that, after the election, the Conservatives failed to make good their agreement with Freeborn, failed to pay him for the dirty work he had done for them, and Freeborn having been betrayed by the Conservative party, felt that he was justified in placing the information in his possession in the hands of the Liberal party. This was done by placing in the hands of certain officials ballots taken from the polls at Carberry—ballots which should have been placed in the ballot boxes, but for which others were substituted, and these ballots he gave to the Attorney General of Manitoba with the statements of the facts. Now, I propose to quote at length, in order to place it on record, a statement of the facts as contained in the speech of the Attorney General of Manitoba. This speech was delivered in the Manitoba legislature on Monday evening, the 29th of March, of this year :

Hon. Mr. Cameron said he had told the House some time ago of his intention to make a statement in connection with the election prosecutions. Possibly, an apology was due the House for it being delayed so long, but a variety of circumstances had prevented until now. In speaking on the question generally, there was very little to say, because he thought the whole House, irrespective of party considerations, would agree with any remarks that might be made with regard to keeping the ballot system free from any suspicions of party manipulation. He believed it was hardly necessary to make the statement that the members of this House and the public generally looked upon any tampering with the ballot box, any method of thus taking away votes, as akin to treason. A blow struck at the ballot box was a blow struck at the liberty of the nation. Under our system of government, the will of the people was expressed at the ballot box, and if that was tampered with, it would be impossible to know what the will of the people was. When these prosecutions were first undertaken, some objection was made because of the violation of the secrecy of the ballot, but the discussion that had taken place since had removed that objection. It was true that one of the objects to be secured in the vote by ballot was the secrecy of the vote, for the purpose of preventing intimidation, but that was not the only object, and if there was some evidence of a crime in connection with the ballot box by which the views of the electors were being misrepresented, it would be a remarkable thing even on general principles if individual electors could not be called and asked in the witness box how they voted. That this was quite in keeping with the principle of the ballot was shown by the fact that in England