

or out of it. It is a shame for a minister of the Crown to utter such a false statement against a body of the most honourable and loyal men in this Dominion of Canada. I make the statement not insisting to recall events of the past that there was no occasion that the Orangemen provoked in any way hostilities of any kind. Deplorable events occurred to which he may have referred, but history records undoubtedly that they were not provoked by any member of the Orange association. Sir, I wish the hon. gentleman were in his seat, for I fling that statement back in his face with utter scorn and contempt. Then, the same hon. gentleman made another statement which seems to me to be of a very humorous character. He said:

The old flag at long last cleansed and purified, has been rescued in fair fight from the hands of the miscreants who traded on it, and degraded it, and the old flag now waves better and purer and loftier than ever.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it comes with ill grace from the hon. gentleman to style the Conservative party miscreants who degraded the old flag. No man in this House stands on more slippery ground in that respect than the hon. gentleman himself—not even the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). For an hon. gentleman who advocated commercial union and unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, and openly and avowedly refused to grant the same terms to Great Britain, but was willing to discriminate against her, to say that the Conservative party, so far as the British flag is concerned, are miscreants, and that the flag had been rescued from their hands, and had been purified, and now waves better and loftier than ever, strikes me as very humorous. The hon. gentleman was very much mistaken; and I think the Premier himself was a little mistaken in his reference to the Orange Society, though his expression was a more reverent one. If my memory serves me, the Premier said on one occasion that he thanked God that there were no Orangemen in the Liberal party; but I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there are Orangemen in the Liberal party. The Orange Society is not a political society.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BELL (Addington). I repeat it, the Orange Society is not a political society, and I challenge hon. gentlemen opposite to cite an instance in which it has traded in politics. I can tell them that there are Orange Liberals who would do as much credit to this House as any of the hon. members on the other side.

Mr. WOOD. Ninety-nine out of a hundred of them are Conservatives.

Mr. BELL (Addington). Further than that, there are Orangemen in the employ of the government. One of the organizers employed by hon. gentlemen opposite is an

Orangeman, and he is the man who furnished the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) with information when he attacked the hon. member for Kent, N.B. (Mr. McInerney). So hon. gentlemen opposite should be guarded when they speak disrespectfully of the Orangemen of this country, for they might be speaking of their own friends.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few general remarks. When the present government came into power in 1896, what Canada needed was a clear-sighted, honest strong-minded government, capable of grappling with Imperial problems. When this government came into power, we were face to face with vital questions affecting the future of Canada. There were three great questions in particular: First, the Pacific cable; second, the fast Atlantic line; third, better trade relations with the mother country. On these great questions the Conservative party had a policy, and there was every reason to believe that they would have achieved success in them in the near future. What has this government done to bring about a successful determination of these issues? What has been done about the Pacific cable? A few days ago there was a probability of a rival line taking the place of the government Pacific cable. What have they done regarding the fast Atlantic service? It would have been a great achievement for this Dominion to establish that line to carry the products of this country to the markets of Great Britain; but, so far as I know, nothing has been accomplished by this government to secure that great want, which the Conservative party nearly accomplished, a contract having been entered into and being ready for signature before they left office. I understand that this matter was left in the hands of the minister without portfolio, (Mr. Dobell). This is the hon. gentleman who has had new light, who stated that once he was blind, but now he could see. Probably he will be able to tell us when we may expect the first fast Atlantic steamer to set out laden with the products of Canada for the old country market. Following that came the discovery of the gold fields of the Yukon. What an opportunity was here afforded to add to the wealth of the Dominion, had we had a government strong-minded and honest, and capable of grasping these great questions. The gold fields were ready, but the government has nothing to show but an absurd tramway scheme, a crop of scandals, and a royalty policy calculated to starve out the best part of the mining interest. I would like to be in a position to congratulate the country on having had a clear-witted, strong-minded, honest government, equal to the occasion, but instead I have to confess that Canada has been obliged to pay a large price for the mismanagement of the Yukon country by the government.