

as he had at his back those Spartans behind him. Now you know very well in reading history that the Spartans were famous as soldiers; they were men who obeyed the word of command; they were told to march forward, and they went forward; they were told to turn right-about, and they turned right-about; they did not reason why, they simply obeyed the word of command of their superior officer; and so Mr. Ross was correct in calling his followers Spartans. The Spartans were not men distinguished as governing people, as people skilled in legislation, as people great on constitutions, but simply as obedient soldiers; and so Mr. Ross was very correct in calling the men Spartans who stood up without giving any reasons for their votes, and always obeyed him; he was quite right in calling them Spartans. I will give you a sample illustration to show you how they do. Mr. Ross introduced in the last Session a Bill respecting the assessment. It embodied a principle that the municipal committee in the previous session had unanimously adopted, and recommended. They placed themselves on record in the Municipal Committee in favor of a certain principle. Then Mr. Ross would not introduce a Bill to carry that out, or allow to pass a bill a Conservative member had introduced, but he appointed a commission on municipal assessment and so threw the question over for another session. That commission reported in favor of that principle I have referred to, and Mr. Ross himself introduced in 1901, a Bill which purported to embody that principle and to carry it into law. Mr. Smith and the other Spartans behind him when told to stand up and vote for it on the first and second reading, they did so; but afterwards Mr. Ross changed his mind, and he withdrew the Bill, and a Member of the other side of the House introduced afterwards an amendment to the same effect as that which Mr. Ross had proposed, and what did these Spartans do? At the word of command of their leader these men who had voted aye to that question upon the dictation of their commander-in-chief, turned right-about and at the word of command of the same man they voted "nay" to the very same proposition. (Laughter and applause.)

#### THE MACHINE.

Now, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have said that it is a pleasure to be here to-day, but it is more than a pleasure, it is a duty to be here to-day, because the campaign that we are about entering upon is no ordinary campaign. Usually elections involve many principles upon which parties differ, but we are at a particularly critical juncture at the present time when it is the duty of everybody to come forward and take sides in this election, and to do the best he can to oust the present Government; so that I came here to-day not merely as a pleasure, but also to fulfil a duty, in responding to the call to say a word in the present important contest that is about to come upon us. This contest as I say is not an ordinary one; it is a special one; there are special principles involved in it; the character, the reputation of the whole province is at stake. It is not a question of the "ins vs. the outs," or merely whether one particular set of principles shall prevail as against another, but the all important question in this country to-day in the coming election is whether this country is to be ruled by men who act at the dictation of men whom we may call the machine-men. (Hear, hear.) You have to decide whether this country is going to back up and endorse by its votes in the coming election the iniquities and the nefarious practices that characterized the last election in many of the counties on the part of the Reformers, and whether this country is going to say that these iniquities are to be condoned, that these machine-men are going to be still allowed to do their wicked work, and whether a Government which holds power to-day not by the true voice and vote of the people but by the manipulators of the ballot boxes, are still to rule. (Hear, hear.) I do not therefore exaggerate when I say that this is more than an ordinary contest, and