

ernment. I am here to state further that if the Government, seeing all these changes, were to go to the country, in so far as any evidence that is forthcoming from the recent by-election is concerned, the recall would come with mighty and sudden swiftness. The hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) talks of my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Gould) not being the member for Assiniboia. Has he looked at the records of the election at which my hon. friend was elected?

Mr. EDWARDS: I did not say anything of the kind. I must correct my hon. friend. Let him quote me correctly and I will not say anything.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: My hon. friend said he was not the member in the ordinary, accepted sense in which others are members.

Mr. EDWARDS: Just so.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: Now I have stated it, but after all it is a distinction very largely without a difference.

Mr. EDWARDS: I have heard that before.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: Having altered the statement and brought it into absolute agreement, will my hon. friend kindly tell me why he says the hon. member for Assiniboia is not an ordinary member of this House when my hon. friend from Assiniboia had a majority of 5,294 in a total poll of 10,000 in his constituency?

Mr. EDWARDS: Very good.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: He is in this House quite extraordinary in that respect and if there were a general election to-morrow there would be a vast number of ordinary members on the other side and a larger number who might find themselves not members at all. The extraordinariness would be transferred to the supporters of the Government on the other side if the recent by-election give us any indication as to what may happen. My hon. friend from Assiniboia would be prepared, I am quite sure, to contest his constituency again to-morrow if need be and I do not think the result would be very different. No Unionist would think it would be, because they fought very shy of that constituency. They did not go near it. They did not put candidates up in it.

While I say again that I am a constitutionalist, in the old sense, I want to give my hon. friend all the points I can possibly give but when any body of men any-

[Mr. M. Clark.]

where in this country come to me and ask me to sign an agreement, while I do not go the length that my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding) went, and make a draft upon my future by making a distinct pledge here as to what I would do,—I am going to concede that it will be a pretty hard hurdle for me to jump. I have done a lot of thinking on my own account ever since I have taken an interest in public affairs and I am free to confess that this will be a pretty hard hurdle for me to jump and I will not commit myself any more on that point at the present time. I want to congratulate the hon. member for West Calgary upon his very suddenly acquired fondness for sound and ancient democratic principles. To those of us who come forward as the champions of larger democratic principles it is most charming to hear such confessions from some hon. members even although they only think they are democrats. I think the most democratic sentiment on this subject is that which has been uttered by my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queen's. I have not the least doubt that in the few words he uttered he expressed the doctrines of true democracy on this question. While he mentioned what his own personal predilections would be in favour of, the real attempt to curb the power of the people is on the part of those who want to say that when you are elected—by any scratch chance or on any single issue—you can sit there until the term of Parliament is out whatever your changes of view may be and whatever changes may have taken place in the country. That is not democracy, Mr. Chairman; that is securing power, by democratic subterfuges, to substitute an autocracy for a democracy.

If there were no other grounds on which I felt inclined to vote for this amendment I should certainly vote against it on at least these two grounds. The committee noticed, no doubt, that my hon. friend from East Calgary drew a very marked distinction between a signed agreement and a recall; and I am bound to say that my hon. friend from West Calgary spoke in the other sense. Mark the language of the amendment. It speaks of persons who have signed any agreement, whether amounting to a resignation, a recall or otherwise—that is to say, the amendment makes no distinction in principle between an agreement and a recall. We have the mover speaking in the sense of his amendment also making no distinction between an agreement and a recall; and yet his seconder from the