

least somebody in connection with the ballot stuffing in West Elgin and North Waterloo.

Mr. Gibson: These men were prosecuted by your friends who took criminal proceedings against them and my predecessor wrote to the Crown Attorney that it was his duty to afford them all assistance in the matter.

Mr. Matheson: But he did not do it: Now as to Callaghan, it is no part of the Crown's duty to secure a conviction unless a man is guilty. In the Callaghan case 17 jurors were challenged by the Crown simply because they were Conservatives (Opposition applause). The Attorney-General is responsible for that peculiar proceeding until he dismisses the Crown Officers who conducted it. No man's liberty or property is safe if the whole power of the Crown is to be exercised against him as in that case. Never in the history of the administration of justice in Canada has there been a case where the Crown undertook to secure a conviction by challenging 17 jurors, and I say the officers guilty of such a proceeding should be dismissed.

Then the Minister of public works is shirking his responsibility in appointing a commission to build 200 miles of railway—it looks very like a confession of incompetence.

I might go through the whole list, but I think enough has been said to show that the present ministry is unworthy of the confidence of the people of this Province and yet we have men, not the ministers, but those speaking for the Ministers, who with coarse and blatant insolence undertake to assert that they alone are fit to govern this province and that the leader of the Opposition and his colleagues have no object except to

secure office and the miserable patronage that comes with it—that they have no high purpose to give the best that is in them for the service of this province and its people. I say, Sir, without fear of contradiction, that there are hundreds of men in this province, on both sides of politics, who are as capable for honesty of purpose and business capacity to hold the departments in this Government as well as the minister now in office and in many cases far more capable. Yet there is this disadvantage for those on the Liberal side that no matter how capable a liberal member of the House may be, if he takes office he has to go in with his hands tied by all the traditions of barnacles, office holders and other things which must be kept hidden, so that no matter how he desires to do his best he is bound hand and foot. It would be better for the Liberal party in the province that the Government which during the past 4 years has had such a miserable record for squandering the resources of the Province and mis-government should be swept from power. Then at some future time after passing through the fire of purification in Opposition they may again get new men worthy to take charge. Otherwise there is no hope for the Liberal party in the Province, it must be simply dragged down day by day with election after election going against them in spite of their efforts to capture constituencies by Machines. That is the melancholy spectacle we have witnessed to-day and I am confident that as soon as the people have an opportunity to pronounce upon this Government that they will declare that the time has come for it to leave office. (Prolonged Opposition applause.)