

discrepancies in Nixon's accounts, that he had manipulated the books and made improper returns; and he so reported to the government. What happened? The government closed the land office immediately, punishing the people for the crimes of their officer. It is true, they opened it again after a time, but in the meantime the people had to travel many miles to another land office to do their business. Notwithstanding the fact that Nixon was so reported upon by the government's own officer, he was given a better position at an increased salary, the government thus putting a premium on wrong-doing. Nixon attempted to put the blame on his own son, who was only fifteen years of age when the delinquencies were committed, and who was seldom in the office.

Another case was that of Mr. Philip Wagner, the special protégé of the Minister of the Interior, the gentleman employed as an interpreter for the immigrants coming to this country and knowing not our laws or our language, and in whom they trusted implicitly as a government official, while he was taking their money and appropriating it to his own use. Charge after charge was made against this gentleman, the Catholic missionary going so far as to tell the department that it was a disgrace to keep such a man in the employ of the government. At last he was arrested and sent to trial. On two counts he was convicted, and was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour. A certain time after he was liberated the present Minister of the Interior actually took this man to his bosom and gave him another position at an increased salary. In that position he draws \$1,200 per annum, although I believe he was only drawing about half that amount when convicted of his crimes. When these cases were brought to the attention of the Minister of the Interior in his own city of Edmonton, he stated, 'I am not going to go back on my friends.' This is the character of the friends that my friend the Minister of the Interior has fallen in with.

Take the case of the Thessalon postmaster, another gentleman who had been appropriating public money to his own use for several years. This also came to the ears of the government, and the Postmaster General of the time sent his inspector to investigate the postmaster's affairs. The inspector reported that a most disgraceful condition of affairs had existed, that this gentleman had for years been appropriating public money to his own uses, that he was \$1,600 behind in his accounts, and he recommended that he should be dismissed. So glaring was the case that the Postmaster General dismissed him. But an election in the meantime came on for both the province and the Dominion, and this ex-postmaster who was an ardent politician and stump speaker, stumped the

Mr. W. J. ROCHE.

county for the Liberal candidates in both elections; and on the ground that one good turn deserves another, or more appropriately that one bad turn deserves another, the member for the riding brought all the influence he could to bear, and actually had that defaulter reinstated in his position, again practically putting a premium on crime. This brave postmaster, perhaps not having a son on whom he could lay the blame, blamed his daughter, whom he branded before the world as a common thief, and the government aided and abetted him in so doing.

Mr. TAYLOR. What is Leach doing now?

Mr. W. J. ROCHE. He is Superintendent of Land Agencies at a salary of \$3,000 per annum. All these people are well looked after; they receive their reward, and that is where the government make a mistake. They carry on operations of this character, and place themselves in the hands of these men who are guilty of infractions of the criminal law. They take them into their councils and confide in them their political secrets, as in the case of W. T. R. Preston, and when the public conscience arouses them from their apathy, they dare not dismiss them for fear of the disclosures of these people.

In view of the fact that the other matters which have come up for discussion in this debate have been fully dealt with by other gentlemen, it is not my intention to trespass on the time of the House at any further length on this occasion; but when the Minister of Finance and his leader twit the leader of the opposition on his platform, I can inform those hon. gentlemen that they need not quote any spurious resolutions that were never presented to the hon. leader of the opposition by the Young Men's Conservative Association of Winnipeg, saying that they were dissatisfied. That is pure fiction, pure myth. I can tell these hon. gentlemen that the hon. leader of the opposition's tour throughout the west has aroused the people to a sense of the notorious actions of this government as they were never aroused before. He has made a deep impression upon the people of the west by discussing public questions in a manner in which these hon. gentlemen are not in the habit of doing, for they preach one doctrine in the east and another in the west. That was not the course of the leader of the opposition. His platform as laid down in Halifax was the same platform that he advocated from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in the west as in the east. The people of the west are a sensible and intelligent people who know a good thing when they see it. They heard the leader of the opposition expound his policy. He did not make speeches of an entirely destructive character, but, true statesman as he is, while criticising his opponents' policy, he laid down his own policy as to the