

guaranteed to the utmost limit, life in Canada is not worth living and citizenship is merely a name. I think hon. members will agree with me that the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) is thoroughly capable of presenting any case that he thinks should be presented. I think they will agree that when he has set before the House the facts concerning this election in Manitoba, and in this case has done it presumably to convince us that some great wrong was committed, we are at liberty to judge of the seriousness of the case by the success with which he has presented those facts.

It is impossible for any reasonable Canadian to entertain the idea that elections in this country have always been conducted as they should have been. I come from a constituency where—and I say it with all reverence—I would to God that at the time of the Federal election I had been Attorney General, for I would have arrested large numbers of men in that constituency, who are a disgrace not only to West Peterborough, but to Canada and to humanity. Whisky is their natural beverage, cigars decorate their mouths at all times, they regard every vote as purchasable, and they make a jest of everything that is decent. But, on my own behalf, I will say that there has not been one whisper of wrongdoing in connection with my election. If hon. gentlemen opposite are prepared to make a joke of that statement, why should they blame others if they make a joke of the statement of the hon. member for Edmonton? Why can we not treat these things seriously? Those gentlemen who are laughing at the present time have not heard from the riding of West Peterborough one charge against me or my supporters in this respect.

If the hon. member for Edmonton has in any respect proven his case, it is necessary for this House to take notice of it, in order to protect the liberties of the people of this country. During the opening remarks of my hon. friend, I expected that he would strike the key-note of his sincerity, and I was somewhat disappointed to find that he charged the right hon. the Prime Minister with juggling with words, whilst he himself was charging the Government with failure to implement their promises with regard to the Tariff Commission, the Highways Bill, and other measures which depended entirely upon the Liberal majority in the Senate. He cannot possibly be acquitted of insincerity in this respect. I was not disappointed, however, in his later remarks with respect to the balance of trade—something that in the Liberal ranks not many years ago was regarded as another huge joke. When the Conservatives in those days urged that the balance of trade

was increasing as against Canada, the Liberal party ignored that important question, and treated it as an absurdity, and a Conservative heresy. Now, however, we find them urging the balance of trade as a justification of their objections to certain policies of the present Government.

The hon. member for Edmonton admits that the success of the Conservative party in the late election was due to the reciprocal policy of the Liberal party, and that the waving of the old flag was a factor in the defeat of the then existing Government. That being so, it must be acknowledged, notwithstanding the fact that all the Liberal leaders were in favour of reciprocity, and that many Conservatives for a time were also in favour of the agreement, that the people of this country were wiser than both. They knew what they wanted, and a triumphant democracy returned to power the opponents of the reciprocity pact.

Referring again to the matter of the alleged misdeeds in Macdonald, I wish to call the attention of the House to a statement made by the hon. member from Edmonton which knocks the foundation from under the supports of the allegations made. The hon. gentleman said:

I do not suggest that, upon any statement of facts I can place before the House to-night, the House will be required to take certain action, but I do say that it is possible to place before the House such a case, such evidence that, unless the House is prepared to go further and make inquiry for the protection of its rights and dignity, this country has entered upon an entirely new political phase the results of which no man can prophesy.

Here is an allegation made against a respectable party, and yet, notwithstanding all the complaints that may be made in regard to the matter, the hon. member for Edmonton says he does not suggest that upon any statement he can make the House will be called upon to take action. That being the case, why go on? It is extremely satisfactory, after hearing these general allegations, to read the affidavits of the men who are most aggrieved. I am not prepared to say for one moment—and I do not suppose anyone else is—that justice was completely done in every particular; but, as indicated by the speech of the hon. gentleman himself, and especially by the affidavits which he at different times has read, I think that reasonable justice has been done to the persons concerned. The attitude assumed by the provincial government of Manitoba seems to be one of suspicion towards a large number of the alleged workers from other parts of the country who flocked in there at election time. I do not refer to those well-known men, of course, whom we see every day in

Mr. BURNHAM.