

we were not going to throw them aside if their virtues were greater than the virtues of those we were asked to take in their place. He said:

To such a Liberal who said that the government did not keep its pledges, he would say, look at home. Have you kept the pledges made to your wife before you married her? But what would you think if your wife left you and went off with another man, and that man an unsanctified tram. That woman would be just as vile as the Liberal who turned Tory.

I accept that statement, and I refuse to read into it the innuendo put upon it by the hon. member for Western Assiniboia. All I have to say, Mr. Speaker, is this, that the man that will put a vile construction upon it is a man without modesty or virtue. There is only one man in this House that would do it; thank God, there is no man outside of this House that would do it. We can, at least, discuss political matters as we ought to; we can differ with each other; but when we are vile enough to insinuate things that the words do not bear, we forget for the time being that we are members of parliament, or even decent citizens, and revel in the filth of our own vile imagination. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we shall go to the country; we shall meet hon. gentlemen opposite and they shall meet us. We shall meet as good-naturedly as we do now, and I trust, without reference to personal matters. What any man in this House says or does is not the question at issue. The issue is the record of the respective parties, and their ability to carry on the affairs of the country. I join with the hon. member for Addington (Mr. Bell) in saying that we need not be continually shouting our loyalty; but, whether Liberal or Tory, we can join in the common bonds that make us part of the greatest nation in the world, and work out our destiny. The Conservatives have done much for this country during the eighteen years they were in power. I would be wrong, it would be ignorance on my part, to talk in any other way. There is no man wholly bad, and there is no party wholly bad. You cannot truly speak of one party as perfectly good and the other as perfectly bad. The whole question before intelligent men in Canada is this: Which of the two parties claiming your suffrages should you return in your best interests? Let us, then, discuss the public questions at issue. I have no fear for the result. I will not prophesy, but I will make this one statement, that I shall be quite willing, after the general election, to count heads, and it may be discovered, when the counting is done, that, after all, the prophecies so fondly indulged in by hon. gentlemen opposite will be no more effective to bring about the result as those of the leader of the opposition. I thank hon. gentlemen for the kind attention they have given to me. I hope this long debate may soon come to an end, so that

we may turn our attention to other matters. I have taken up about an hour and a half. I did not intend to take up so much time, but two or three things occurred that made me do so. I know that in the discussion to follow, we shall continue in the same good-natured style, and shall, when we get down to real work, reach results that will be conducive to the best interests of the country.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, before resuming his seat the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) stated that he would not indulge in any prophecies as to the result of the next general election. Well, Sir, I must congratulate the hon. gentleman on one thing, that with increasing years he increases in wisdom; for, if I recollect aright, my heart rather sank when I read an interview in the *Toronto Globe* last December, in which it was stated that Mr. Fraser, the talented and versatile member for Guysborough, N.S., had just returned from Manitoba, where he had taken the stump on behalf of Mr. Greenway, and that the signs were that Mr. Greenway would sweep the country.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Will the hon. gentleman pardon me? I never attended a meeting for Mr. Greenway, and never took part in the local elections.

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. member for Guysborough is a good deal like the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). Seeing himself associated with the downfall of Mr. Greenway, he wishes to repudiate all connection with him. It is a notorious fact, however, that the hon. gentleman, with the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), and other gentlemen, attended meetings from one end of Manitoba to the other, and that their defence of this administration for its sins and iniquities was what in the main brought about the downfall of the Greenway administration. And I can understand what brought about that result. Fancy a man appearing on a public platform and addressing intelligent farmers such as there are in Manitoba and indulging in a lot of buncombe such as we have listened to for the last hour and a half; and then imagine the electors going and voting for the party which he represented, more especially in view of the fact that this same hon. gentleman, associated with others, had been through that country about three years before. He was then denouncing the Conservative administration and the policy of protection, and along with the Premier and other gentlemen, was making all sorts of pledges and promises to the farmers of Manitoba. The hon. gentleman will not say that he was not there a year or two before the general election; and was it to be expected that the result would be different when men who made all kinds of promises from one end of Manitoba to the other, came back a few years afterwards