

are just as well prepared to stay here throughout the year as they are.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. TAYLOR. We are glad to have your company.

Mr. CRAWFORD. We are just as willing to stay here. We are just as loyal to the country as the opposition ever were. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to refer at great length to much of the argument used in connection with this debate; in fact I think there are very few points that have been made, particularly by those who spoke on the opposition side of the House. As I said, we have received this kind of treatment at the hands of the opposition and if any one will peruse 'Hansard' it will be seen that throughout nearly all the debates this side of the House has been criticised; the word 'graft, graft, graft' is used throughout every discussion. If I know anything about 'graft' or what it means as applied here it practically means that the government of the day are doing something that practically steals money out of the treasury of this country. No other interpretation can be put on the word 'graft' except that there is something wrong being done, that the country is being robbed in some way. I think that such statements as that should not be made unless the people who make them are prepared to prove their statements.

I think that the records of this country, if gone over from start to finish, will show that if the reputation for graft attaches to either party it applies more to the Conservative party than to the Liberal party. We on this side take no second place to hon. members opposite as regards a willingness and a desire to keep down corruption or graft. The policy of the opposition throughout seems to me to be largely one of mud slinging, with the view no doubt that some of the mud may stick. No doubt these hon. gentlemen expect that, should some of their statements be allowed to go uncontradicted, that will have some effect on the people throughout the country. But it is time that our friends in opposition should be given to understand that the game is one at which two can play. As Wellington said at Waterloo when told there was hard hitting going on. 'That is a game at which two can play.' We on this side are able to sling just as much mud as our friends in opposition.

Mr. LENNOX. Hear, hear.

Mr. CRAWFORD. And we have this advantage over them that we have a larger mud-hole from which to get our raw material. When I moved the adjournment of this debate on Tuesday last, I had in my mind some statements of hon. gentlemen on this side regarding the great change which has come over this country since our

honoured leader has had control of its affairs. My hon. friend from Winnipeg (Mr. Bole) gave us some very interesting statistics as evidence of the great progress we have made. He quoted the increase some 40,000 ten years ago until now it reaches away past the 100,000 mark to-day. He also quoted from the Customs Revenue returns of Winnipeg, which show an increase of revenue from \$528,000 ten years ago up \$2,629,000 at the present time. He also drew attention to the increase in the Inland Revenue returns from \$423,000 to \$1,250,000 and in the Post Office returns from \$91,000 to \$300,000 within the last ten years. The value of property in that city has increased in a corresponding ratio. My hon. friend might have also pointed out the great advance in property in that western country, which, I may say, is the backbone of all the progress made in this Dominion at present. The production has increased in the last ten years from a few million dollars to a sum of two hundred million dollars this last year in the country west of Lake Superior alone. And because of this vast increase in production, lands, which were formerly deemed of no value, are now worth in some cases thousands of dollars an acre. I may say that I have been in that western country a good many years and have been witness of the different changes that have taken place in the past thirty odd years. And I can say without hesitation that not one of the statements made regarding its progress has been at all exaggerated. There must be a reason for this great change. There must be a reason for the great improvement in that country. What has brought about these better conditions? As I have said, I have been in that country for well on thirty years and in all that time I have not noticed any climatic changes which could make any difference. In fact the first winter I spent there was the mildest I ever experienced. There have been no upheavels of any kind to create any change in the conditions during all those years. Twenty or thirty years ago the climate was just as favourable and the soil just as fertile as to-day. About twenty years ago the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed to the Pacific ocean, and for the last twenty odd years we have had just as many lines of railway from the east and from the south, particularly so far as Manitoba is concerned, so that we have had thoroughly good railway accommodation during the past twenty years, particularly in the province of Manitoba. Therefore in that respect there have been no changes which could account for any particular difference in the present conditions as compared with those of ten years ago. Previous to the change from Conservative to Liberal administration that country was practically at a standstill. Take the latter ten years of Conservative rule, when the