

confidence that there was in my mind, fighting for the triumph of my ideals and principles, I was shadowed for eleven days in the riding of Macdonald. The hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House may laugh as much as they please. It may be that the people of this country will not laugh when they know all the details of this election. The key of my room was taken away; my grip was searched; my room was ransacked. I have had proof of employees of the provincial government of Manitoba, salaried detectives wearing the badge, trying to put under the influence of liquor a free citizen of the parish of Notre Dame de Lourdes, at the station of Cardinal, on the day there was a joint meeting at Notre Dame de Lourdes.

And when I drove to Notre Dame de Lourdes, the man who had been compelled to drink and had been given money to sign a complaint that I had wanted to bribe him did not have the courage to stand by what he had said. It may be very funny for certain members of this House. But let me say this: I am not in communion with the ideas of the Government of the day, but I think that in the party that now administers our affairs there are honest men. Now, is it necessary for those in that party who are honest and clean to be in the same case with those who have committed such crimes and outrages as have been described? I say, no. I represent not only the Liberals of St. Hyacinthe, but also the Conservatives who voted against me. And speaking for the Conservatives of the county of St. Hyacinthe who voted in favour of my opponent, I say that they have confidence in the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) who now leads the Government. They listened to the attacks he made upon the late Government. They heard him say that that Government were wrong-doers and that if he were entrusted with power he would do better than they had done. But now, when the case of Macdonald is brought to the attention of the House, what does he answer? In his official capacity he says: My predecessors did the same. I say, we never did the same. But, even were the hon. gentleman's charge true, the electors of this country who have expressed confidence in the party now in power will be shocked when they hear all the details of this election in Macdonald. Let me give barely one instance. Last session hon. gentlemen sitting on this side of the House asked the Government day after day to interfere to reduce the tariff rates for the western farmer. But the Government answered that that question was out of their hands and was in the hands of the Railway Commission. But during the contest in Macdonald, a Minister of the Crown who

was stumping the county made a speech in the town of Somerset and declared that the Government would reduce the tariff rates. I suppose he thought this a means of inducing the people to vote for the Government candidate.

In the by-election in Richelieu, the electors were threatened. But those electors voted according to their conscience. And what was the result? Before eight days had elapsed after the result of the election was known, eighty-three workmen who were supposed to have cast their votes against the Government of the day were thrown out of employment, and they are now in the city of Montreal, at this time of the year, trying to earn bread for their wives and families.

When the Government cannot win by-elections by bribery and corruption, they can at least strangle the electors. For you can be loyal in this country if you are willing to be a Tory. You are entitled to live, you may remain under the shadow of the British flag, but first you must be a Tory, otherwise you are liable to be deprived of the means of earning your bread. It is very well for the Government, with a great majority in this House, to minimize the accusations that have been brought forward and to meet with ridicule the assertions of those who have suffered from the condition of things that is exposed. But the people of Canada, who know what it means to have representative government, the people who have read their own history and know the value of their institutions; the people who are glad to live under the British flag because it affords to everybody freedom and fair play; the people who are patient because they are strong and know their strength, will crush the men who think that they are the people's masters though they have been elected only to be their servants.

Mr. BURNHAM (West Peterborough): I have no intention of unduly claiming the attention of the House. But I feel, as a citizen of this country, that it is necessary to look into the charges that have been made against certain members of the Conservative party with respect to the conduct of an election in Manitoba. I think it can be pretty generally admitted that the Minister of Finance (Mr. White) has wiped off the slate all the objections that have been advanced, so far, to the conduct of the Government of the day. But it is not by any means easy to wipe off the slate—and it is fortunate that it is so—charges of misdoing compromising the liberty of the subject in Canada. And, as it is no joke, it is not for us or anybody else to treat it as a joke. I think, therefore, that we must give it due consideration. For, if the liberty of the subject in Canada is not guaranteed, and