

desired to vote and it was left to the deputy returning officer to mark their ballots for them, it being simply open voting. After he had secured the whole vote en bloc this homestead inspector openly made the boast that now he would betake himself to the constituency of Dauphin, the election having been postponed for one week, and that after getting through there he was going to the constituency of my hon. friend from Mackenzie (Mr. Cash) to lend his active assistance there. That is the reason, and it is a very important reason to the government, why they are so anxious to retain these lands in the hands of the Dominion government. It is because of the wonderful influence that these government officials have over these people, who, as the hon. Minister of the Interior states, are not at all acquainted with our homestead laws and whose future prosperity, if these officials were to put into effect what they have threatened to do, would suffer a very serious impediment. That is one reason why the lands are not handed over to the provinces: If they were handed over the provinces would have their own officials and it would not interfere with the immigration policy of the Dominion government any more than it does in the other provinces of the Dominion where they have the ownership of the public domain. They could work in harmony with the officials of the Dominion government and it would not be an impediment to the encouragement of immigration. At this late hour I will not take up the time of the committee any longer, but I protest against the government retaining these lands and I claim that there can be no sufficient monetary consideration to compensate the people of the west in the future for the loss of their public domain. These lands should be handed over to be administered under the advice of the fifty members who will represent the people in the local legislatures of these provinces and to be administered by the respective governments of these provinces, who will have officials on the ground and who will administer them much more advantageously to the people interested there than they can be administered 1,500 or 2,000 miles distant from the scene of operations.

Mr. LAKE. Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to detain the committee longer, but I do not desire the vote to be taken without a reference to some of the remarks which have been made to myself personally by the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott). He has been twitting me with not having gone up into the Edmonton district and he referred to myself amongst others as having said that the reason was that there was a Roman Catholic vote. This is an entire revelation to me. I never had any idea of going into the Edmonton district, nor did I ever give the rea-

son which he has suggested for not going there. I should have had pleasure in going into West Assiniboia if the hon. member had become the Minister of the Interior. I must confess that I could not see the drift of his remark that Roman Catholics should have the same right to express their opinions as Protestants. Who said they had not? I can assure the hon. gentleman that it was not any one on this side of the House. It seems to me that he was simply following a course with which we have become familiar and which has been pursued by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who have grown accustomed to telling the members of the Roman Catholic faith that the Protestants are attacking their religion. That is the very surest way of promoting bigotry and religious strife and it has been sedulously practised by members opposite and is absolutely without any foundation at all.

Mr. BUREAU. What about the cartoons in the 'News' and 'World'?

Mr. LAKE. I think that the hon. gentleman should look at some of the cartoons which have been published by papers on his own side of politics.

Mr. BUREAU. Name the papers.

Mr. LAKE. Well, if the hon. gentleman wishes I will describe a cartoon which appeared in the Ottawa 'Free Press' in which the right hon. First Minister was shown as a knight in full armour with the lance of righteousness in his hands, going to attack a double headed dragon breathing out rebellion and bigotry. I think one head was that of my hon. friend from Victoria and Halliburton (Mr. Hughes) representing rebellion and another head was that of my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) representing bigotry and on the top of this dragon was a representation of my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) without many clothes on him and in the form of a devil. This wonderful creature was being attacked by the right hon. First Minister with the lance of righteousness. That is one little cartoon—

Mr. BUREAU. That is only one.

Mr. LAKE—that comes to my mind and I think it compared very badly with some of the admirable cartoons which have appeared in the Toronto 'News.'

If I were asked what would have the strongest influence upon an election at Edmonton, I would, with my hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. W. J. Roche), say that it would be the enormous influence which is exercised on new settlers in a new country by the land and immigration officials of the Dominion government. Their influence is something overpowering, it is a very difficult influence to counteract and it is a standing wonder to myself how it is that any Conservatives managed to get elected in the Terri-