

Mr. BENNETT. Where is Greenway?

Mr. BRODEUR. Before continuing my remarks on the question under discussion, I may be permitted to express my congratulations to my hon. colleague the Minister of the Interior. We heard some days ago that this government was afraid to open any constituency in the Northwest. Some members on the other side, and especially the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean)—who I have not the pleasure of seeing in his seat just now—boasted that if the government dared to open a constituency in the west, so strong was the feeling of the people against this Bill that no Liberal candidate would dare present himself. Now we have the answer in the election by acclamation of my hon. colleague the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the hon. gentleman made some reference to myself at a moment when I happened to be out of the chamber. Would he please repeat it?

Mr. BRODEUR. I was merely saying for the benefit of my hon. friend that before the present Minister of the Interior was called upon to enter the cabinet, the hon. member for South York boasted that the government dared not open any constituency in the west, and that if a constituency was opened no Liberal member would dare resign his seat and accept a portfolio in the cabinet. I remember the member for South York making that boast, and now I am surprised that the hon. gentleman was not sufficiently courageous to go into the Northwest and oppose my hon. friend and colleague the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Mr. Speaker, the challenge I made I repeat to-day.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Yes, and it was a challenge—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The hon. gentlemen will listen surely? If they mean fight they will be fair in fighting.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The challenge I made—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Now, will you listen?

An hon. MEMBER. Yes.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Well listen then. The challenge I made was that if the government would open a seat in Ontario—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BRODEUR.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I named the seats, and this in intolerant Ontario of which we hear so much, in which I would run. I will resign my seat to-day and run in South York against the hon. Postmaster General (Sir William Mulock), or I will resign my seat and if the hon. Postmaster General will resign his seat I will run against him in North York, or I will run in London or in Oxford. That is the challenge I made and, Mr. Speaker, you may have my resignation now if any hon. member will accept this challenge.

Mr. BRODEUR. I accept, Mr. Speaker, the explanation which has just been given by the hon. member for South York. I thought that he intended to go and fight in the Northwest, but I see now that he wants simply to confine himself to the province of Ontario. Who are the people most interested? Who are people who should take the most interest in this question? Is it the people of Ontario, or should it be the people of the Northwest? That is the question. In view of the alleged shackles which we are going to put on the new provinces it was in the west that the fight should have been made and I am sorry that my hon. friend who is full of vigour and energy has not enough vigour to go and fight in the Northwest as he should have done.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I would go farther.

Mr. BRODEUR. My hon. friend, I suppose, does not intend to make a speech.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. No, but my hon. friend asks me about the Northwest and he has thrown it up again at me. I will resign my seat to-day—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. And run against my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Greenway) or the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott). Let the hon. member for West Assiniboia, or the hon. member for Lisgar—Thomas Greenway—resign his seat to-day and I will run against him in his own constituency.

Mr. BRODEUR. We have had enough of all that. We know very well that this agitation which has been brought up by the hon. member for South York is now subsiding.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Well then take the challenge.

Mr. BRODEUR. We know very well that every day his friends are complaining of the action which he got his paper to take on this question. No, I will not follow him any more. He must accept the humiliating position in which he put his party