

me and about the supporters of the government; he had better manifest a little anxiety about certain gentlemen in his own party; he had better look after them a little more than he does after the gentlemen on this side of the House. As I said, my hon. friends opposite have had the amendment in their hands for days and weeks and yet they come and say: Please tell us what it means; true we voted on the question; true we tried to raise a political riot throughout the whole of the Dominion of Canada on this question; true we have tried to stir up excitement; true we have tried to arouse prejudices; true we have tried to arouse religious strife; true we have told the country what it meant, but now we come here pitifully and say: Please Mr. Fitzpatrick will you be good enough to tell us just what it means? My hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster), since he left the Department of Finance has lost that regard for exactness which should characterize one trained in that department, and when he undertook to give us a little history this afternoon he gave it very imperfectly. He says: Something happened since this Bill was first presented to this House. Oh yes, several things have happened, but the most important things that have happened the hon. gentleman did not include in his story. I would say that the most important event that has happened since this discussion began was the triumphant election of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver).

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. FIELDING. These gentlemen opposite tell us that it does not mean any thing now, but the day is not far distant when these same gentlemen led by the member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) walked around with chips on their shoulders and challenged the government to open a constituency anywhere in Canada, and particularly in the Northwest Territories. An election in some other province was alluded to, but what of that? They said: Open a constituency in the Northwest. Well, a constituency was opened in the Northwest and then what happened? Oh, but says an hon. gentleman opposite, there was fear and trembling about that. Yes, there was fear and trembling in the ranks of the opposition. My hon. friend says, there was fear as to the candidate that would be selected; yes, there was fear among the Conservatives that they might put up a candidate who would lose his deposit. There is no fear amongst hon. gentlemen on this side whether it be in the Northwest or elsewhere, and whenever the time comes this government is prepared to test public opinion. And as often as we do we will find these gentlemen opposite saying afterwards, when we come forward with a splendid vindication from every province and from the Dominion at large: Oh, it does not mean

Mr. FIELDING.

anything at all. But something else has happened. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) speaks of the speeches made by the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Finance and various other persons, and while these very modest speeches may not mean a great deal, they seem in conjunction with other speeches to have carried greater weight and greater value on the other side of the House than did the speeches of the member from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) and his associates; because we find that this Bill which hon. gentlemen opposite have been parading over the country as a bad Bill and as being disastrous and ruinous and fatal to the Liberal government and the best interests of the country—we find that this Bill is found to be so meritorious, and this part of it particularly so meritorious that—

Mr. LANCASTER. What does it mean?

Mr. FIELDING. My hon. friend (Mr. Lancaster) voted against it; he ought to have known what it meant.

Mr. LANCASTER. Let me ask the hon. gentleman: If he did not understand a measure would he vote for it or vote against it?

Mr. FIELDING. As my hon. friend (Mr. Lancaster) voted against it he need not distress his soul about that, and if it were fifteen times as good he knows he would vote against it all the same. But so good was this measure and so valuable were these speeches, modest though they were, of the Minister of Customs and the various other ministers, that not only did they persuade and satisfy practically every man on this side of the House, but they carried away a large contingent of the opposition members to the support of this measure.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. FIELDING. And when the hon. gentlemen opposite looked around on the memorable night of the division, their feelings must have been sad and mournful. They were not able to keep their own friends; man after man dropped out of their ranks, and when the record was taken a dozen of the flower of the Conservative party had declared their faith in this government by deserting the Conservative party and supporting the policy of the Liberal party on this measure.

At six o'clock, committee took recess.

After Recess.

Committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. STOCKTON. Mr. Chairman, when you left the chair at six o'clock the Minister of Finance just concluded a somewhat extraordinary speech.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I wish to remind the hon. gentleman that with the consent of the House I allowed the discussion