

found there, 26 men could not be found in that country to give the people an opportunity of expressing their views?

An hon. MEMBER. You found more than 26 in Mountain.

Mr. PATERSON. Evidently we had not an opportunity of testing it there, but we were told that what the hon. gentleman has said in reference to Mountain would be found in the district of Edmonton. But it appears they were not found there and that is the place we should have found them. If I understand geography aright, Mountain is not in these Territories; it is not a portion of the country that is being bound and shackled, while Edmonton is. There is no use of trying to minimize the result of this election. There was a great desire to open that constituency conceived in the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite. According to their own declarations they had no hope of defeating my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior, but they said that there would be such a vote in a constituency in the Northwest as would strike terror into the government here; yet when the opportunity is given, not 26 men out of the thousands upon thousands of English-speaking Protestants, not even 25 to sign the requisition and one to accept the nomination, come forward and the \$200 deposit is not put up. Now, what is the use of talking about the feeling up there? What is the use of talking about Doukhobors, Galicians and that kind of thing? If the feeling existed there to the extent that these hon. gentlemen represent it does, I think beyond all question that they ought to concede that as far as the Northwest Territories are concerned 26 men could have been found at any rate to give the people an opportunity of voting against this legislation.

Mr. SPROULE. I just wish to say a few words in reply to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson), because I think his speech is deserving of a reply. I am reminded that my judgment is in fault with reference to that. Perhaps it is. At any rate I choose to say something in reply to him as well as in reply to the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver). I want to refute the statement made by the hon. Minister of the Interior that any hon. member on this side of the House was ever abusing or desiring to abuse the people of Edmonton, and to say that in my judgment there was not one word said in reference to the people of Edmonton that was fairly susceptible of that interpretation except what was spoken by himself. If we took the trouble to quote the language which he used regarding these people only a few years ago when he declared that this immigration would have the inevitable result of lowering the Anglo-Saxon race—

An hon. MEMBER. Anglo-Saxon nothing.

Mr. SPROULE. Yes, the inevitable result of lowering the Anglo-Saxon race, that fact would be evident. If anything has been said on this side of the House that is equal to that I would like him to point to it. In regard to the question of how far an election may be regarded as a test of public opinion up there, I would say to the hon. Minister of Customs that the government organ first announced here that the election was to take place in West Assiniboia and that the choice of the new minister was expected to be Mr. Scott, that he was going into the ministry. In view of that our party proposed to avail itself of the opportunity of testing public opinion to show what it was in that country, because we regarded it as a locality where there might fairly be a test taken. We prepared for that, but when the government after sending their agents I presume to ascertain the situation, they had not the moral courage to test public opinion there, what did they do? They were obliged to drop the hon. member for West Assiniboia and take a new man into the ranks who had a constituency the complexion of which was of such a peculiar character that he stood a chance of re-election. Let me give him a little information. Did the shortness of the time given to allow the ascertaining of public opinion, look like courage. The election was announced on Saturday and a little over 21 days were allowed to run an election in a territory several thousand miles from here. And before the election was announced five or six of their members were put on a train and sent westward, and as we were told presumably with a good supply of funds to help them to carry that election.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. SPROULE. And who were they applying to for a test of public opinion? I refer to the fact that a large majority of these people were not English speaking.

Some hon. MEMBERS. But they are.

Mr. PATERSON. There are more than twenty-six of them anyway.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the laugh about?

Mr. OLIVER. Does the hon. member say that a large majority of the people of that constituency are not English speaking?

Mr. SPROULE. I think I said a large percentage, but I would even go further and say that I believe from my information that a majority of them are not English speaking in that riding.

Mr. OLIVER. Then I am to understand the hon. member to say, that a majority of the people in that riding are not English speaking.

Mr. SPROULE. From my inquiry so far as it has gone, that is the impression left on my mind.