

it appears that the Conservative party could not find four men to nominate a candidate and one man to accept the candidacy. That could have been done before the Minister of the Interior got there at all.

Mr. INGRAM. The Minister of Customs now says the time was ample.

Mr. PATERSON. Of course it was for you to put up a candidate.

Mr. INGRAM. I am willing to let the country judge as to that in a constituency where the voters' lists were withheld from the opposition and in which the Liberals were supplied with these voters' lists; a country in which the Liberals had 82 enumerators paid \$8 a day, eighty-two constables; eighty-two deputy returning officers, 82 poll clerks or 348 government officials, not counting the members of parliament who were formerly land agents, and who were sent up there. The Minister of Customs thinks that is fair, but let me ask him another question. When Mr. Robinette came to Ottawa from Toronto, representing the Liberal party of that city did the Minister of Customs advise Mr. Robinette to go back home and tell the Liberals of Toronto that the government did not want an election in Toronto? He is one of the ministers representing the province of Ontario; did he tell Mr. Robinette that or not? Let him be frank in answering the question.

Mr. PATERSON. I never said that Centre Toronto was in favour of the government; I never challenged the verdict there. They have their school system; but I am talking about these Territories that are said to be shackled and bound; I am dealing with this question alone. For instance, here is what the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) said.

Mr. INGRAM. Never mind the member for East Grey; I am asking the hon. minister himself.

Mr. PATERSON. The hon. member for East Grey said:

Is it because of the dearth of public men from that country and the impossibility of finding any one in the ranks of the government supporters sufficiently intelligent to be a cabinet minister? It cannot be the latter, because the government has many supporters from the Northwest, any one of whom would be a credit to any cabinet. We are driven, therefore, to conclude that it is because of the unpopularity of the measure, and because the government dare not ask the Governor General to appoint a new minister, and by an electoral contest, allow the people of the Northwest to express their opinion upon the measure.

The people up there knew, days before the Minister of the Interior could arrive, what this Bill was; there were thousands of English-speaking people there all represented as being inflamed against the government; there was ample time to get a nom-

ination paper signed and to raise \$200 for the nomination before the minister could arrive.

Mr. INGRAM. I have been trying to be frank with the Minister of Customs, and I was giving him credit for being frank too. I asked him a plain question as a minister representing Ontario in the Cabinet, and he declines to answer. Therefore I must assume that he was interviewed by Mr. Robinette and advised him not to take part in a contest. That being true, did the Liberals have any difficulty in getting twenty-five men in Toronto to sign a nomination paper or in raising \$200 for a nomination? Did they have any difficulty in getting the voters' lists? Both friends and opponents would have got those lists. Our friends would not have been shackled there as our friends were in Edmonton. Both Liberals and Conservatives would have had fair-play in Centre Toronto, and Mr. Robinette, I dare say, was willing to contest it; but he was advised by the Minister of Customs not to have a contest, but to go back and advise his Liberal friends there not to have a contest; and the Liberal friends were dissatisfied with the explanation, when he told them that he had been in Ottawa and had been advised not to have a contest in Centre Toronto. There may be a contest in London, and the Minister of Customs will no doubt, be there taking part in it. There will be some fun at the meetings in London, and the intelligent electors of that city will be given an opportunity to announce themselves without being shackled. They will not be shackled, but they will have a voters' list and will have British fair-play, and we will see what the result will be, though the government candidate will be favourably handicapped as against the other man, by having a portfolio, the government at his back, and a private car and its equipment. Then we will know what the public feeling of this country on this question is. So far as North Oxford is concerned, there is bound to be a contest there. Everybody knows that that constituency has a majority of at least 1,500 Liberals, and should the government candidate be elected by a small majority, I have no doubt that the government will claim that as an endorsement of its policy.

Mr. GALLIHER. At the risk of incurring the charge of obstructing the Bill of the Minister of Justice, I will say a few words with reference to the matter spoken of by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule). I feel certain that the hon. member misinterpreted the meaning of the article he quoted as having appeared in the Halifax 'Chronicle.' I would be very sorry indeed to think that any paper, whatever its political complexion might be, would apply the term, in the offensive sense in which my hon. friend appears to have interpreted

Mr. PATERSON.