

ber for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) I stated that we had been challenged to open London, and to open Oxford, but that it seemed to me that if we wanted to have a test of the feeling that was alleged to exist on this question the better place would be in the Northwest, the provinces to be that are affected. That was generally acclaimed with 'hear, hear,' by gentlemen on the other side of the House, and when it was decided by the government to open a constituency there, a constituency was chosen which I think the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) in some remarks that he made, suggested would be a very good district, that the representative of Edmonton would make a very good minister and that he would have pleasure in endorsing such a move. Having met his views in that, after a constituency was opened, the very constituency that they wanted opened in the very part of the country in which they wanted a test, and the result is such as it has been in Edmonton, all manner of excuses are made by the opposition why they did not run a candidate. Now the point I want to make out is that the gentleman who addressed the House last (Mr. Ingram) who denies that he said anything abusive with reference to settlers in the Northwest Territories, can hardly claim immunity from the charge of abusing gentlemen on this side of the House when he gives credit to the 13 members usually acting with the Conservative party for voting conscientiously on this point. I think one gentleman either that hon. gentleman or the hon. gentleman behind him—I do not wish to misquote him and I think I am quite correct—said that if the gentlemen on this side of the House had voted according to their consciences three times 13 would have been found voting against their party. I do not know how it has seemed to hon. gentlemen opposite, but it seems to me clear as was stated that to state that gentlemen on this side of the House voted contrary to the dictates of their consciences cannot at any rate be taken in the light of a compliment. I do not think you could say anything that one would be much more inclined to resent than that.

However, that may be. Let us deal with the question of the nationalities that prevail in this district of Edmonton. The reason they allege, why no candidate was found was that they could not hope to succeed there. Well, I believe they could not hope to succeed, but one point I want to make is this: The desire for the opening of a constituency in the Northwest Territories was based on the unceasing declaration of hon. gentlemen opposite that there was the most profound and indignant feeling pervading the whole of the Territories that we proposed to bring into this Dominion as provinces, and that it only wanted an opportunity for the people in some way to express that indignation and we would get it. That opportunity was afforded by the

Mr. PATERSON.

acceptance of office by my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver). A constituency was opened. Now, I am not careful for the purpose of my argument, as to whether the Conservative party did wisely, in the party point of view or not. I want to ascertain whether there is truth in the statement of my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) as continued day after day in our hearing that there is a profound feeling in the Northwest Territories, that he has his telegrams and his resolutions and his petitions and he is sure that the whole country up there is deeply stirred and agitated. I can understand that the Conservative party, as a party, perhaps think it was party policy not to run a candidate, but if there were people in the Northwest Territories who were feeling in that way, if there were people in the district of Edmonton who believed and felt that they were being bound and chained and their liberties taken from them, as hon. gentlemen opposite say, how is it that an opponent was not found? Not necessarily a Conservative opponent. What was required in order to give an opportunity for an expression of the people upon this Bill?—only 26 men out of the thousands that are there, 25 men to sign the nomination paper, one man to accept the nomination and \$200 of a deposit. Yet, we find that there were not 26 men within this country, within this whole district that is being bound and gagged and in which there is such an intense feeling to come forward under these circumstances. Where were the Orange lodges up there? Where were all these petitioners who were so indignant? Would \$200 stop them with their hearts wrung with anguish desiring only an opportunity to show how they felt on this question? Could it be possible that when men's liberties are being sacrificed, when shackles are placed upon them there could not be 26 men found to give the people an opportunity to pronounce upon it? In our own province, as the hon. gentleman knows, time and again you have men who hold views, not necessarily connected with either views, but who think neither party comes up to their views and who run their candidate, not with any hope that they will succeed at all, frankly admitting that there is no hope of it succeeding, but determined to give expression to their views. Well, if these men find and if they feel that they are being shackled and gagged and that their liberties are being taken from them, how I ask my hon. friend from East Grey and my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, is it that 26 men out of the thousands, out of the thousands of Protestants that are there, out of the thousands of English speaking people that are there, leaving out the Doukhobors, the Galicians and others who come from Europe if you like—how is it that amongst the thousands of the conceded English speaking residents that are to be