

where he now has a safe Liberal seat although I presume he will have it only until the electors have a chance of voting on this great question. I claim that if there has been any act of cowardice on the part of this government it was appointing as Minister of the Interior the gentleman who now holds that position. I do not say that with any disrespect to that gentleman, I do not insinuate for a moment that he is not qualified to fill that position, although there may be differences of opinion—and I understand that such differences exist on the Liberal side—as to whether he was the right man or not. The reports are that the government had another gentleman selected for that position who was the proper man to fill the position, but that gentleman refused the position because he knew he could not carry the constituency if he went back for re-election and it is because they were afraid they could not carry a seat in the west from Winnipeg to the Pacific ocean, that the hon. gentleman is now filling the position of Minister of the Interior. He is Minister of the Interior by accident, purely a location accident, just because the riding that he represents happens to be one in which the Doukhobors, Galicians, and Russian Jews, and other foreign elements exist, and for that reason the hon. gentleman went back there and was elected although we had, as the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram) has already told us a few days, only a few days in which to bring out a candidate in opposition to him. It was on account of the elements in that division that the hon. gentleman can thank this House for being Minister of the Interior to-day, and no one knows that better than the hon. gentleman himself, the hon. Minister of Customs, the hon. Minister of Finance and other ministers who are sitting in their seats to-night. I will ask the hon. Minister of Customs or the hon. Minister of Finance if they will stand up and tell us if it is not the fact that the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) was the man who was first selected for the position?

Mr. FIELDING. What odds if I should answer my hon. friend, because they will go on asserting that as they have for a month past. I say now there was no selection for the position except that of the hon. gentleman who has been appointed to it.

Mr. LALOR. It is all right to say there was no selection. I do not say there was a selection, but the hon. member for West Assiniboia was the choice of the ministry and he was the one who was named for the position, but he did not accept it because he knew he could not be elected.

Mr. FIELDING. There is no foundation for the hon. gentleman's statement, but as they will go on repeating it why deny it?

Mr. LALOR. I think there should be a certain amount of fairness between political parties. There should be a certain

amount of fairness on the part of the government towards the opposition, and I claim that in that election that fairness was not shown towards the people of Edmonton, or the opposition, or the Conservative party. We have been told that the voters' lists for that division were printed in the Government Printing Bureau at Ottawa, and that when the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. McCarthy) went to the Printing Bureau and asked for one of these lists he was refused and told he could not get it without the permission of one of the ministers. These lists were printed, they were not given to the Conservatives in that division, and they were not sent to the candidate whom the hon. Minister of the Interior defeated at the last general elections as is always the case. We know that they are always sent to the defeated candidate. I would like to know who prepared these lists? Was it the government here? Were they prepared out in Edmonton? Who brought them to Ottawa and who ordered them to be printed? The hon. Minister of the Interior says he does not know anything about them. Who is the minister who is responsible for these voters' lists which were printed for the benefit of the Minister of the Interior, and which the Conservatives were not able to obtain? I think it is due to this House and to the country that the government should answer that question and tell us who is responsible for these voters' lists and who had them printed. No answer comes. It is the same as when every other speaker on this side of the House has put a question to the government. They refuse to answer any question, they refuse to tell us who is responsible for the voters' lists and why the Conservatives were not able to get them.

I was sorry to hear the hon. Minister of the Interior allude to my hon. friend from East Elgin as he did. All of us in this House have not had the benefit of a college education. We are not all graduates. We cannot all write B. A. or M. A. after our names, and I think it is to the credit of my hon. friend from East Elgin that he is a self-made man, that he probably received his education in our national or public schools and that he has risen to the position of a member of this House. I am glad that he is holding that position and it ill becomes the hon. Minister of the Interior to throw the insinuation across the floor of the House that my hon. friend from East Elgin is not an educated gentleman. I do not know what the qualifications of the hon. Minister of the Interior are, but I do not believe, if we followed the matter up, we would find that he occupies a very much higher scholarly position than my hon. friend from East Elgin does. The hon. Minister of the Interior has given us a statement of the vote that was polled in the division that he represents in this House. I do not want to dispute that