

Mr. SPROULE. Who says hear, hear ?

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. Everybody.

Mr. SPROULE. Well, the hon. member who speaks is not everybody.

An hon. MEMBER. He is nobody.

Mr. SPROULE. It would be nearer correct to say that than to say he is everybody.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. I have not the same presumption that you have to represent everybody.

Mr. SPROULE. Oh I see it is the weakling again, and I will excuse him knowing the frailties of human nature with which he is endowed. Under these conditions we could not hope to get a fair test of the average sentiment of that country from people who did not understand our language, our educational system, or the questions that divide the two parties in this country. But when we came to portions of the country where they did understand, when we came down to Manitoba what were the results there ? A constituency that from time immemorial returned a reformer ; did it endorse the government ? No. The government supporters were sent up there to try and influence public opinion—

Mr. PATERSON. Who was running as the candidate of the Dominion government in that constituency ?

Mr. SPROULE. A government supporter, Mr. Greenway, went up there with his friends, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Jackson and others, and tried to carry the election on the strength of the government policy, but they utterly failed, and Mr. Greenway has not put in an appearance here since, so discouraged was he with the result. There was another opportunity in Centre Toronto. Did they test public opinion there ? It is not a pronounced Conservative constituency ; it was carried by the Reform party not many years ago. Did they dare to test public opinion there ? Not at all. Now, we are inviting them to test it in London. I do not know whether they will venture or not. If they do, we will say it is a fair test, and we will go into the contest with the desire to see what is the public sentiment on this question there.

Mr. FIELDING. Why mention London ? Why not mention Lévis, which is vacant at the present time ?

Mr. SPROULE. A province which gave us one single supporter. That is just the kind of constituency the hon. Minister of Finance wants us to test.

Mr. FIELDING. Will my hon. friend permit me ? He is mistaken. The opposition have a number of supporters from that province on other questions and one on this.

Mr. SPROULE. If the government had ventured to put up a candidate in Centre

Toronto, we would have tried our strength there. Let them open any other constituency in Ontario.

Mr. FIELDING. Why Ontario ?

Mr. SPROULE. We do not ask it in Ontario alone ; we ask it in the Northwest Territories. But give us a show ; do not play with loaded dice. Give us a fair opportunity to place before the people the representations of the Minister of Finance and the abuse he has heaped upon those who dare to assert their rights. Let me give a little of what appeared in his own paper.

Mr. FIELDING. What paper is that ?

Mr. SPROULE. The Halifax 'Chronicle.'

Mr. FIELDING. Allow me to say to my hon. friend that if he quotes that as my own paper, I want to know his authority.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman owns that paper now or not, but it was edited by the hon. gentleman for a number of years, and it is regarded as reflecting his views on the political questions of the day.

Mr. FIELDING. That is not what my hon. friend stated. He said it was my own paper. I have had nothing to do with that paper for twenty years.

Mr. SPROULE. Does it represent the hon. gentleman's views ?

Mr. FIELDING. It represents my views no more than any other paper so long as it is in harmony with the Liberal party. It is a paper which generally supports the Liberal party, but sometimes disagrees with it ; but I have no more to do with that paper than I have with the Toronto 'Mail.'

Mr. SPROULE. The paper, in some of its articles, did represent the hon. gentleman's views.

Mr. FIELDING. I challenge the hon. gentleman's statement that the paper ever represented itself as speaking on my behalf. I believe it never said anything of the sort.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. Minister of Justice may laugh, but he will laugh on the other side of his face before this is all over. Don't you forget it, either.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I do not think it is fair for the hon. gentleman to attack me in that way at this late hour of the night.

Mr. SPROULE. I only want that respectful attention that I always give to the Minister of Justice, or the Minister of Finance, or any other man on that side of the House. I only ask that and nothing more, and I intend to have it. If I stand up and speak for the people of this country—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPROULE. I say if I stand up and speak for the Protestant element of this