

Ontario. It is difficult to say what the clay belt has to do with this Bill, but as the hon. gentleman has struck out new lines in other respects, he has struck out new lines in regard to government legislation. I think it a little unworthy of the hon. gentleman—we might have expected it when he was away on the back benches, but it was hardly worthy of him as Minister of the Interior—to attempt to make a little cheap political capital by putting words into the mouths of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House which they had not used.

Mr. OLIVER. What words?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. He put words into the mouths of the opposition which I venture to say were never uttered by any member of the opposition. If he looks at Hansard, he will see that. I am not going to waste time as he has done by repeating these words but he will recognize them tomorrow. It is not the usual course of a minister who is trying to get a Bill through parliament, when he has been treated with a fair amount of courtesy to suggest that gentlemen who have spoken on this side of the House are dishonest and cowardly—because that is what the hon. gentleman's remarks mean if anything. We hardly expect that sort of thing from a Minister of the Crown. He said the hon. member from Brandon was at least honest and had courage.

Mr. OLIVER. Surely?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. And he said it in such a context that he was imputing the want of those qualities to every hon. gentleman who had spoken on this side.

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Chairman, am I responsible for all inferences that any hon. gentleman might choose to draw from my remarks?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. No, he is not, but when he uses language that warrants a direct inference he may expect that the inference will be noted.

Mr. OLIVER. I can only say that it is usual when the cap fits for gentlemen to wear it.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. There the hon. gentleman has made the suggestion again. The hon. gentleman has always prided himself in this House as a private member, he and one other hon. gentleman have always spoken of themselves as the only two honest and independent members in the House.

An hon. MEMBER. Who is the other?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I have not heard any other hon. gentleman in the House speak of them in that way but they themselves have done so.

Mr. OLIVER. If I am to be called in question in this way I would certainly repudiate the statement made by the hon.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

gentleman that I ever spoke of myself in that way.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I say that it is but the direct inference to be drawn from the hon. gentleman's remarks as was the case just now, because the hon. gentleman spoke of every one else as not possessing those qualifications, and although he did not speak of himself we all thoroughly understood what was in his mind and he understood it and he understands it now. It has been in his mind very often in the House but it is not worth while if he expects to get this legislation through to take the course of throwing sneers across the floor of the House which might not be noticed when he was a back bencher but may be when he is trying to get legislation through the House, or rather trying to obstruct its progress for his leader called for a vote just as he took the floor.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I call for one now.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman will call. It is like the man who called spirits from the vasty deep. The question was whether they would answer. The hon. gentleman may call.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. But there may be no response.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Or there may be more response than he wants. Now, in regard to this interesting question of the clay belt of Ontario which the Minister of the Interior insists we shall go into, he regards the clay belt as I understood him as absolutely useless. Well we heard a great many speeches two years ago about the wonderful value of this clay belt when the government proposed to spend a great many million dollars in running a railway through it.

Mr. OLIVER. Do I understand the hon. member to say that I, said that the clay belt was useless?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. He said that up to the present his own Liberal friends who have been boasting of their achievements in that regard have not succeeded in planting a single settler in that district.

Mr. OLIVER. What I tried to say was that they had not tried.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. My hon. friend the Minister of the Interior is going from bad to worse. It was bad enough to say they had good intentions and did not succeed in carrying them out, but it is infinitely worse to say that they did not have even good intentions. That is what some Conservatives in Ontario have been saying of the right hon. gentleman's friends during some time past, but I never heard so frank an admission with regard to it as that which my hon. friend has just given. We heard most glowing descriptions of this clay belt in