

Oliver), could not, as a party, enter into this contest. But the great point the House wants to understand is how hon. gentlemen opposite reconcile the result in the election of the Minister of the Interior with what they have told us about the feeling of the people in Edmonton. They have told us about people being bound and shackled and robbed of their liberties. And one hon. gentleman on the other side, I think, ended his speech with the words, 'give me liberty or give me death.' One would think, if the feeling were so strong as these hon. gentlemen say, there would have been enough dissatisfied electors, even dissatisfied Liberals, men who would not care to take part in the Conservative caucus, to offer opposition to the minister. When I spoke I said it required only twenty-five men to nominate and one man to accept as candidate and a deposit of \$200. But I have since been told that in the Northwest Territories it is only necessary for four to sign the nomination. Of course, there would still be one to accept—five in all. It would appear that there were not five men found in the whole of Edmonton to make this protest when the opportunity for protest was offered. There are thousands of English-speaking Protestants there, and, yet, notwithstanding these strong declarations of hon. gentlemen opposite, there were not five of these men to come forward.

Mr. SPROULE. Will the hon. gentleman tell me why he could not find twenty-six in Centre Toronto?

Mr. PATERSON. That would not be a test. The people of Centre Toronto were not being bound or shackled. Their hearts were not being wrung and their liberties being taken from them. Why, in various constituencies we find independent parties, for instance, the Labour party, whose members do not claim to have great wealth. They nominate candidates in many cases where they have no expectation of carrying them and tell you so. They put up the necessary deposit though they may feel sure that they are going to lose it. But here, though there was, according to hon. gentlemen opposite, this feeling of indignation because men were being shackled and bound, their hearts wrung and their peace destroyed, not four men to nominate and one to accept and a deposit of only \$200 could be found to make a protest when the opportunity offered. To ask why we did not put up a candidate in Centre Toronto is no reply. We have never said there were people there whose hearts were being wrung, who were being gagged and fettered and bound. But will hon. gentlemen give us the reason why there were not found, even among the dissatisfied Liberals of Edmonton, leaving out the Doukhobors and Galicians, enough men to take this practical means of expressing public dissatisfaction when it was offered? That is the point I

desired to have answered. Until it is answered, I cannot believe that there is the feeling there that hon. gentlemen say. There is no use to talk about the petitions they have sent and the resolutions they have passed. Only five men were required to give expression to any public dissatisfaction that existed and in a way more effective than any other that could be afforded. As to the remarks of the hon. gentleman, they do not do him credit. He read an extract from a newspaper and applied it to an organization to which he referred—though the newspaper had not so applied it—and waxed indignant because he says these references are offensive. He speaks of petitions. He knows these petitions came in properly. The signers were not afraid to express themselves. And, of course, they had a perfect right to petition. Now, to answer those who who sent in those petitions is not to sneer at them.

Mr. SPROULE. There has not been a mention of a lodge on the part of any hon. gentleman opposite in this House without a sneer.

Mr. PATERSON. Not at all.

Mr. SPROULE. I am speaking of what I know.

Mr. PATERSON. I am sure there are many of us would who admire the way the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) fights his battles. But let him not attribute statements to hon. members on this side with which we have had nothing to do. He reads a statement from the newspaper and, though that newspaper does not apply it to the order to which he refers, he does apply it, and then attributes the statement to hon. members on this side. That is not fair, I am not going into it, I stick to my point. How is it that among these people that are being shackled and bound, amongst whom there is such profound indignation, that of all these thousands of English speaking Protestants five men did not come forward to give an opportunity to express that feeling?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think the hon. gentleman has asked that question about fifteen or twenty times. I suppose he asks it for the purpose of suggesting that no one is shackled or bound or tied or hampered in any way.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Except the Bill.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Except the Bill. The Minister of Customs has joined the Minister of Finance and the Minister of the Interior, in obstructing the Minister of Justice to-day and has succeeded very well indeed, but when he wants to come to any conclusion about the shackling and the binding of the Northwest might I respectfully suggest to him that it would be just as well to go to Toronto and ask some of his Liberal