

the Northwest legislature. If he had a meeting of the legislature to-day I know positively that he could not command a majority. There are seven vacancies, since the last meeting of the legislature seven gentlemen have resigned, and I verily believe that if these constituencies were to elect new members, Mr. Haultain tomorrow would not be able to control a majority. He is in a sense, of course, Prime Minister, but if we are going to stick to the constitution as strictly as our friends this afternoon have argued for it, Mr. Haultain must admit that he is not the constitutional representative of the people of the Northwest Territories at this moment. Is further evidence needed? Mr. Haultain made this very autonomy matter, as my hon. friend from Brandon knows, an issue in the Northwest Territories in the last general election as far as he could to obscure the Grand Trunk Pacific. He stumped the Northwest Territories on it and what was the result? Seven Liberal members returned, every one with an average majority of 1,200, as against three Conservatives with an average majority of less than 150.

Mr. INGRAM. You ought to have an election for the Minister of the Interior now.

Mr. SCOTT. We had a good deal of discussion this afternoon and many brave statements were made by hon. gentlemen opposite. We had very similar statements made last year. We had a number of fingers pointing across the floor of the House then as they were pointing across this afternoon and from month to month in 1904 and during the previous session of 1903 hon. gentlemen said: Only dare to come down to the people; only dare to do it. Well, the government did dare do it and the result is as I have said, that in British Columbia there were seven Liberals returned and not a single Conservative, in the Northwest Territories seven Liberals, with a majority averaging a little over 1,200, as against three Conservatives barely squeezed in, and in Manitoba seven Liberals as against three Conservatives. And when we got before the people their complaint was that we had taken them unawares. Let the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram) not concern himself. Whether a new Minister of the Interior is selected from British Columbia or the Northwest Territories or Manitoba, I venture to say that the government will be able to carry the election of such a minister in whatever district they may choose to select him from.

Some references have been made to Mr. Bulyea, the colleague of Mr. Haultain. Some serious insinuations have been made against Mr. Bulyea. Some were made by the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) a few days ago. He insinuated,

and because no direct denial was made he took it as an admitted fact, that Mr. Bulyea had been, as he put it, collaeguing with the right hon. Prime Minister and the Liberal members from the Territories apart from Mr. Haultain. I think I am revealing no secret when I say that I have been present at no conference at which the right hon. Prime Minister was present and at which Mr. Bulyea was present. We have had numberless conferences with the Prime Minister and his colleagues, but at none of these conferences was Mr. Bulyea present. Let me turn that proposition around. I am sorry that the hon. member for North Toronto is not here. Is there anybody here who is prepared to state—

An hon. MEMBER. The hon. member for North Toronto did not make that statement at all.

Mr. SCOTT. Is there anybody present who is able to state—and the hon. leader of the opposition will have an opportunity of answering this question—that Mr. Haultain was careful to have Mr. Bulyea with him every time he was in meeting and in discussion with the hon. leader of the opposition in regard to this autonomy matter? Several hon. gentlemen opposite have suggested that Mr. Bulyea had deserted the position of the Northwest Territories in failing to sign the letter of protest which appeared over the signature of Mr. Haultain. I have already read the letter and it is patent to everybody that the only protest of any kind contained in that letter is in regard to this school matter. He does not lay stress on the matter of the number of provinces, he does not lay stress on the matter of lands; the only thing he does lay stress on is the matter of the schools and I have proved to the House, I think, to the satisfaction of every lawyer and every layman in the House, that Mr. Haultain's own draft Bill, which was assented to by the legislature and the people of the Northwest Territories, asked for the continuation of the separate school system. Is it Mr. Haultain or Mr. Bulyea who has deserted the position of the Territories? If, as alleged, Mr. Bulyea declined to sign that letter, I think Mr. Bulyea was simply performing his duty. He declined to turn from the position that the people of the Territories had taken on that matter.

The hon. member for North Toronto, too, stated something in connection with the question that had been asked by Mr. Haultain in regard to schools at the time of the last general election and the answer given by the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton). That is perfectly true. He went on to say that a question was put to all the Liberal candidates in the Northwest Territories as to what their action was going to be in regard to schools if they were returned to parliament and that they told the people that they must trust to the govern-

Mr. SCOTT.