

THE PREMIER HESITATES.

When Mr. Bourassa took his seat all eyes were turned to the leader of the House to see what action he would take. Sir Wilfrid sat for a time apparently waiting for a Conservative member to speak. When the silence became embarrassing he was seen to give a signal to Mr. Carvell, the Liberal member for Carleton, New Brunswick, who spoke the rest of the afternoon and part of the evening on the question of the Foresters' funds, and only in the last six sentences referred to the motion before the House, remarking that the investigation proposed would probably be futile, and that the subjects mentioned were not proper matters for investigation.

SIR WILFRID AGAIN OPPOSES INQUIRY.

By this time Sir Wilfrid was prepared to say something. The Prime Minister began by stating that Mr. Bourassa desired "to ascertain where are the honest men and where are the dishonest men." Sir Wilfrid did not approve of such an inquiry. He said:

"I can only say that every man in this House is an honest man, that every man in this House has a right to walk with his head erect, that every man in this House has a right to his character until that character has been taken away from him, not by insinuations, not by the tittle-tattle of the streets, but upon a charge made by some one who has the courage to make such a charge."

Of course, this is exactly what Mr. Bourassa proposed, while the custom of flinging insinuations had been the policy of the members behind the Premier. Sir Wilfrid then went on to plead that there was no charge against any member in the report of the Insurance Commission. He declared that the Commissioners "had not made a report against this member of the House or that member of the House on which the House could base a motion." And again the Premier said: "For my part I cannot see that there is any reason to have any further investigation upon the facts disclosed by the Commission."

So that after all that had been threatened and predicted by members and the press supporting Sir Wilfrid Laurier as to Mr. Foster's conduct, the Premier admitted that there was no basis for a Parliamentary charge against him. The Premier's verdict was that Mr. Foster, Mr. Fowler and all the other members whom his followers had been abusing were honest men having a right to walk with head erect.

SIR WILFRID AND MR. HYMAN.

Turning then to the position of his own colleagues and supporters, Sir Wilfrid took notice of the fact that Mr. Hyman had been named by Mr. Fowler in the House. Thereupon Sir Wilfrid made the following statement concerning Mr. Hyman:

There have been a great many rumors against my colleague, Mr. Hyman, there is no use to deny it. There have been rumors in this House that he was shamming