

with. His statements have been reiterated by other hon. members with the object of drawing the attention of the government to these matters in the hope of eliciting some statement from the government in regard to them. They have not been mentioned in a perfunctory way and the government is not in a position to say that its attention has not been drawn to them. These matters have been emphasized by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House and no attention has been paid to them.

Yesterday, the member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) felt it his duty to bring to the attention of parliament, a question of political morality. I am sure that every man in this House would regret to have to bring before our attention any case which indicated that the highest sense of honour does not exist among the members of the Canadian parliament. I am sure that we must all regret to find that the political morality of this country is going down the scale instead of ascending. The hon. gentleman from East Simcoe, much against his wish, but in deference to the discharge of his public duties, mentioned a matter which has been discussed in the public press of Nova Scotia, and he asked for a pronouncement of the government upon it. But, notwithstanding that many members have since spoken, the ministers have remained silent and there is no reply. The people of Canada are an intelligent people, and the government that thinks it can hoodwink them, or that it can deceive them by remaining mute, will find that it has made a great mistake when at the next election, the electors of Canada have an opportunity to pronounce upon its conduct. Knowing the hon. member from East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) as I do, and knowing that he states nothing but facts in this House; knowing that he is a gentleman who does not flinch from doing his duty although it may be unpleasant, I thought I would inquire into one of the charges that he made last night. I had not time to inquire into all his statements, but I know that the member for East Simcoe is a man of high honour, and if all his statements be as true as the one I did inquire into, then the government is in a very unenviable position indeed. It is a cause of great surprise to me, that the Prime Minister or some of the members of his cabinet, did not announce to the House what they are going to do about the matter. I refer to the statement which the member for East Simcoe made in reference to the Digby public works. The hon. member appealed to the Finance Minister to know what he thought of this sort of thing. The member for East Simcoe told us that the representative of the county of Digby was to get \$500 cash, and \$4,500 more from the town, when the government had constructed certain public works in that municipality. This matter had been published in the public press of Nova Scotia, and yet the

Mr. LANCASTER.

Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding) who comes from Nova Scotia, and who must be aware of what is published in the newspapers there, even, though a special appeal was made to him, did not announce the opinion of the government on this extraordinary transaction. I made inquiries for myself, and I am sorry to say that the case is even worse than as presented by the member for East Simcoe. I, as coming from another part of the province of Ontario, wish to further deal with this subject, because I know that the people of my district, irrespective of politics, desire to see the affairs of Canada administered in an honourable and honest manner. I find in the Digby 'Weekly Courier' of Friday, January 8, 1904, a report of the proceedings of the town council which is as follows:—

'TOWN COUNCIL.'

The adjourned meeting of the council met January 2nd, 1904, at 8 p.m. Present, acting Mayor Hayden and Councillors Titus, Syda, VanBlarcon and Letteney.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved. The following motion to rescind, notice of which had been given at last regular meeting, was moved by Councillor Letteney.

Whereas, on the 27th day of November 1902, a certain resolution was adopted by the town council of the town of Digby, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement and contract with A. J. S. Copp, for the payment, to the said A. J. S. Copp, of the sum of \$5,000, for securing improved wharf accommodation at the port of Digby; and subsequently to wit on the 29th November, 1902, an agreement and contract was entered into under said resolution, and the sum of \$500, a portion of said \$5,000, was paid to the said A. J. S. Copp thereunder, on account of expenses; and it is deemed desirable that the said resolution should be rescinded, and the agreement cancelled and annulled;

Therefore resolved, that the said resolution be, and the same is, hereby, rescinded and revoked, and that the said agreement entered into thereunder be forthwith cancelled and annulled, and the said sum of \$500 refunded to the town. Councillor Syda seconded the motion.

Now, Sir, there is a statement in the newspaper published in the town of Digby in the province from which the Finance Minister comes. The Finance Minister was premier of that province for years, and no doubt the province feels honoured in having him as a representative to-day, but when the member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) appealed to him for his opinion of such a transaction as this, the Finance Minister had nothing to say as to the morality of this queer transaction, and he sat silent in his seat. Now, there is a contract referred to in the newspaper report, and I have been fortunate enough to find a copy of that contract, which I shall read to the House. It is as follows:—

This indenture made this 29th day of November A.D. 1902, between the town of Digby, a body incorporated of the one part, and Albert J. S. Copp, of Digby, in the county