

grave charges that I thought it was my duty to make, I fully realized all the difficulties I would have to meet: but when objection was taken in this House in regard to the Minister of Public Works keeping control of the papers, I did not take part in sustaining it. I hope that the Minister of Public Works, who is the official leader of my race in this Parliament, will not place me under the painful obligation of believing that those who at the time made that objection were right. I hope that they were wrong, but, Sir, I hope at the same time that he will realize that it is his immediate duty to order that all the papers should be brought down, and brought down without any more delay. Look at what we have witnessed, Mr. Speaker. We have seen people who have for the last eight years controlled, as a matter of fact, a great many things in a great public department, hiding their books from day to day.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Will the hon. gentleman not confine himself to the mere statement which he wishes to make on the Orders of the Day being called? He is now entering upon matters which give rise to a debate.

Mr. EDGAR. In order that this matter may not be slurred over, I move the adjournment of the House.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. There is no occasion to slur it over at all. I simply reminded the hon. gentleman of the Rule of the House, which I thought perhaps he had not in mind. There is no objection to his making a full statement of what he desires, and it will be answered.

Mr. TARTE. What I say, Sir, is that we have before this Parliament in the official report of the Committee, the clear evidence, I might say more than that, the clear admission that the books were not forthcoming and that the book-keeper was dismissed.

Mr. SPEAKER. Let me draw the attention of the hon. member to the fact that he is now speaking as to the delay in producing papers by the Department of Public Works. What connection has that with the holding back of the books or with Connolly's clerk, I do not see.

Mr. TARTE. If you allow me, I believe that I can show you that I am perfectly in order, and, more than that, that there is a perfect relation between that delay and the other delays that we have suffered before the Committee. It should not be forgotten, I think, that the persons named in the charge I have brought are Larkin, Connolly & Co., and also, unfortunately, the Minister of Public Works. My charge is, that improper dealings have taken place between the parties named. I yet hope that the hon. Minister will prove that my charges are false: but still the charges are there, and they are now being investigated. Well, Sir, I was saying that we could not obtain until to-day important correspondence, letters and telegrams that are under the control of the hon. Minister. I state this from my seat in the House, and I will prove it in due time. At the same time we see that the other parties accused of having corruptly dominated the department have themselves hidden their books and sent away their man who was in a position to explain the entries in these books. This cannot be denied, because one of them has clearly admitted that he has dismissed the bookkeeper. I

Mr. TARTE.

made these charges with a certain hope that they were going to be investigated in an honourable manner. I have expected justice, and I still expect justice, from this Parliament. Well, Sir, if we cannot get these papers, if we are delayed from day to day, I will certainly not be able to make all my evidence, although persons who may have been parties to destroying papers may be deceived in the long run. But still let us take the facts as they are before us. As a matter of fact we have been delayed, but I fully admit that the Government, I believe, is not responsible for that delay. I am quite prepared to say that I have received justice from the hon. Minister of Justice, who has directed all our proceedings in the Committee, but one thing that all the members of the House will be obliged to admit also is, that we have not acted with the energy that was to have been expected from us. We have been delayed from day to day: papers we have had a right to have are not produced yet, and I again call the attention of the Minister of Public Works to the fact that he has got under his control in his department a great many letters extending between the years 1885, 1886 and 1887 that he had an order to bring before us, and that have not been brought down yet. I do not wish to say any more now, but, Sir, I believe that the House will agree with me that, in the interest of all parties, we should not prorogue until this enquiry is over. I believe that I may appeal to both sides of the House. If I have been deceived in the accusations I have brought I am quite prepared to bear the full responsibility and penalty of it, but, Sir, if my accusations are true, as I have every reason to believe they are, then the guilty parties ought to be punished.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I will not follow the hon. gentleman in his argument nor in his speech, because I believe the House does not expect that from me. The only thing I can say to the House is this: That every paper, every letter, every document, every plan and every thing that is in my department connected with this case, I have given orders from the beginning that they should all be produced before the Committee. I repeat again, that if the hon. gentleman will lay before the Committee when it meets to-morrow or the next day, a list of what he wants and which he does not find in the numerous papers and documents that have been laid before the Committee already, if any of those documents are to be found in my department every one of them will be brought down as soon as possible. I know perfectly well that my position as a member of Parliament and a Minister of the Crown is this: That as the head of that department, and the House having ordered through its Committee that all these documents and papers should be produced, they must be produced, and an order has been given to the deputy head of the department to do so. He has full liberty to do so, his duty is to do so, his orders are to do so, and I have no doubt that if any document is missing it is because he did not find it. If the hon. gentleman will give a list of one, or two, or three, or twenty documents which he wants, Mr. Gobeil, the Deputy Minister of my department, is bound to find them if they are in the department.

Mr. GIROUARD. With regard to these missing papers, I may be allowed to make one or two remarks. First, the papers coming from the De-