

and only withdrew under threat of exposure. It is also perfectly notorious that the hon. gentleman for many a day has made his public boast, and I believe truly, that he was Senator, designate and elect, as soon as, I suppose, he had got too good for the atmosphere of this House. It is as well for future historians to know—and it is in part my reason for placing this motion on the Votes and Proceedings, that they should have an opportunity of knowing—how majorities are made, and how majorities are paid under the existing régime; how the inheritance of the people of Canada has been squandered and is being squandered; how the independence of Parliament is being secured; what a noble example is being set to inferior legislative bodies; how the Government and their supporters interpret their duty as trustees and wards of the people, and how the right hon. Premier interprets the Duke of Wellington's famous statement: "That it is necessary that the Queen's Government should be carried on." I beg to move the motion of which I have given notice, and I now, Mr. Speaker, place it in your hands.

Mr. RYKERT. Mr. Speaker, according, Sir, to the Rules of this House, and according to the rules of Parliament, I am compelled to make my statement and my defence, in answer to the charges made by the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), and then, Sir, unfortunately for myself, I am compelled to withdraw from the House until judgment is passed on the resolution he has offered. I say it is unfortunate for me, for I would like to have heard, as any one charged with so serious an offence would like to hear, what my accusers may say against me, and then put my answer upon record. After the extraordinary indictment of the hon. member (Sir Richard Cartwright), and after the extraordinary exhibition of temper by the hon. gentleman in preferring that indictment, one would almost be supposed to be afraid to stand up in his place in Parliament to answer the hon. gentleman. But, Sir, when we find that his closing argument gives away the whole of his case, I think, perhaps, it is some encouragement for me to place my case before the House. I have, Sir, from the very outset been desirous that this House should pass judgment upon the charges made by the hon. gentleman. I was not in a position, as a member of Parliament, to challenge his statement at the commencement. I was not in a position to ask that the matter should be referred to a Committee to discuss it, and to examine whether or not I have placed myself outside the bounds of parliamentary practice or discipline. I was not in a position to do that, because there is no direct charge made against me, and day after day, and for months, I was subjected to the abuse poured upon me by the Grit press of this country, which declared openly and boldly that I dare not face the matter on the floor of Parliament. I feel it my duty, as an honest man, and as a man representing the people of my constituency for the last thirty years—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. RYKERT. Yes, I say as an honest man; and the best evidence that I am an honest man is the vote of the people which gave me 500 majority, in spite of the declarations of the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) and the horde of Grit canvassers who ran through my county

during the last election, and to which I shall refer before I sit down. I was desirous from the beginning of placing my position upon record. I desired that it should be scanned critically, and that everything that I have done should be carefully weighed by this Parliament; but I was not in a position to do so, because my accusers did not formulate a charge against me. I felt it was my duty, at the earliest possible moment, to answer the hon. gentleman who has, to-day, placed before this House a resolution—I will not say an untruthful resolution, because it would be unparliamentary to say so—but a resolution economical of the truth, and a resolution containing statements entirely at variance with the facts. I felt that it would be my duty at the very first opportunity to endeavor to have these matters fully and properly investigated. It cannot be wondered that the hon. gentleman would place such a resolution before the House. The record of the hon. gentleman himself shows that he is not capable of formulating a proper resolution which the hon. members of this House could consider intelligently. He carries in his pocket a certificate given by the paper which described him as the great mixer and muddler, and he could not be expected to place questions of this kind before the House in a way that even a school boy could understand. The House knows that, even after the lapse of four or five weeks, he has been unable to bring the matter properly before the House. So anxious was I to have this matter investigated, that I appealed to you, Mr. Speaker, and I consulted the clerk, to ascertain what course should be pursued; and having had a large parliamentary experience myself, I felt it my duty to search precedents to find out what should be done, because I felt that if I could in any way bring this matter before Parliament, it was my duty to do so at the earliest possible moment. I also consulted one of the leading parliamentarians of this country, a man of great constitutional knowledge, the Hon. William Macdougall, to see if he could point out a way by which I could speedily bring the matter before Parliament, and I will read the opinion given me by that hon. gentleman, to show that I had no desire to shirk the responsibility of my position, but was ready to meet the charges made against me as a member of this House. He says:

"OTTAWA, 22nd Feb., 1890.

"MY DEAR MR. RYKERT.—I have read carefully the letters, speeches, &c., in your case as they appear in the 'Debate' and 'The Votes and Proceedings.' I am clearly of the opinion:

"1. That no statements and admissions made by you prove or imply corrupt dealings with the Government or any member thereof.

"2. Your professional services in procuring the grant of a timber limit to Adams *et al.*, was not a violation of any provision of the Act securing the Independence of Parliament.

"3. It has been the practice since Confederation, as well as previously, for members of both Houses to promote the applications of their constituents and friends to the various departments of administration, and especially for the purchase of public lands and timber.

"4. I can recall many instances (when Commissioner of Crown Lands and Minister of Public Works) of members of Parliament, in and out of Session, appearing as counsel and arguing in support of the claims of their clients.

"Whether specially retained and paid for the service, I do not know; nor do I know of any rule, order, or statute which then prohibited, or which now prohibits members of Parliament of the legal profession from advising their clients in the matter of such applications. If the Minister or responsible head of a Department favors