

Mr. Rogers: Certainly my right hon. friend seems to have made a special purpose of conducting a minute investigation in the constituency of Kingston, if he is now coming down to the question of the garage in the yard of the president of the Liberal association of that constituency.

Mr. Bennett: If he built it with public property, that is my duty.

Some hon. Members: Did he?

Mr. Bennett: He certainly did.

Mr. Rogers: Let my hon. friend make a charge, and I will make an investigation. Probably my right hon. friend is no more correct in that information than he was in his earlier information. I am quite content to have the matter investigated at once; I want to make that perfectly clear.

In conformity with that undertaking I immediately placed myself in touch with Mr. Stansbury in Kingston. My information is that the building used as a garage in the yard of Mr. Stansbury was possibly built before confederation, in the sense that it is an old stone building such as may be seen in many parts of the country.

Mr. BENNETT: Don't cheer yet; he knows perfectly well the building I referred to. Call it a garage, or any other name you like. You know the building I refer to.

Mr. ROGERS: I am making this speech.

Mr. BENNETT: I know.

Mr. ROGERS: The building itself was constructed many years ago.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. ROGERS: There was a renovation of that building within the last two or three years. No public property went into the renovation of that building. There was at the time a pile of loose crushed stone in a cutting near the site of camp 37. Mr. Stansbury, I am informed, with the permission of the officer in charge, and on the understanding that he would pay the cartage, received four cubic yards of waste crushed stone, which was not placed in the building of the garage but on the roadway leading to the garage. I am informed that the actual price of the stone if sold by a contractor would be somewhere between \$2 and \$3. And as I have said before, Mr. Stansbury asked for permission to use this stone and received it accordingly. There was no public property that entered into the building of this garage referred to by my right hon. friend.

This is the third time the leader of the opposition has made this statement about Mr. Stansbury, who is a member of the city council of Kingston, and a highly respected citizen. He is at the same time the president of the Kingston Liberal Association. The

[Mr. Rogers.]

first statement made by my right hon. friend was that Mr. Stansbury was connected with a contracting firm while president of the Liberal association. He was not. But the former president of the Conservative association of Kingston did receive contracts from the then government, and on a very large scale. We shall hear more about that later.

I am perfectly aware of the tactics pursued by my right hon. friend. He has made these charges on at least four separate occasions.

Mr. BENNETT: And he will make them for the fifth time in a minute.

Mr. ROGERS: And he has had to retract them.

Mr. BENNETT: He has not retracted any of them, except the one with respect to Mr. Stansbury's contracting firm, and that was accidental, as is known.

Mr. ROGERS: Will he now retract them?

Mr. BENNETT: He certainly does not intend to; he is going to repeat them.

Mr. ROGERS: We know the tactics pursued by my right hon. friend. He makes these statements, knowing perfectly well that the correction seldom catches up with the charge. And he probably hopes and believes that there are some who will see the charge on each occasion, and will not see the correction, and would in due course receive the impression that the Minister of Labour from Kingston is a villain and a blackguard. If that is the kind of tactics pursued by my right hon. friend I would suggest that he should alter his ways, as quickly as possible.

He has pursued these tactics on more than one occasion during the present session of parliament. Now I have made my position clear with respect to these several matters which have been brought up. I have made it clear beyond doubt that if complaints exist with respect to governmental matters in the constituency of Kingston I shall be obliged to have those complaints brought to my attention, and if they are brought to my attention I will do my utmost to rectify them. Naturally I cannot keep under my eye at all times everything that goes on in the constituency of Kingston. My duties keep me here at Ottawa during the greater part of the time. But I suggest to my right hon. friend that he would probably add something to his own stature, and contribute something to the business of this country, if instead of making these charges, without himself undertaking to prove their truth or otherwise, he should bring them to the attention of those who are able to deal with them and who are in a position to rectify them if they are well founded.