

can place the least credence on his statements. On the contrary, the impression is forced on me that that man was brought here to perjure himself. I cannot conceive of anyone worthy the name of a man or possessed of the true feeling of manhood, injured as Mr. Clapp alleges that he was injured, going to this degraded, drunken creature, and negotiating with him for evidence of the fall and degradation of his wife, himself and children. I say that it is something I cannot understand. I know that my feeling would be, and I believe it would be the feeling of every hon. gentleman present, to draw my pistol or use my cane and brain him on the spot. It is the most revolting thing that I ever heard of in connection with this or any other case. Were it absolutely necessary that this man must go and see Pingle in order to get evidence to sustain his application, probably it would mitigate the offence against humanity and society to a certain extent; but he could have sent a solicitor or an agent who would have served his purpose as well as by degrading himself to the level of the poor wretch whose evidence he was seeking. There is another point to which I wish to draw your attention; here is the lawyer that she consulted about procuring a divorce in the city of Detroit. That feature of the case has been threshed out pretty well, but if you look at the diagram of the room which was occupied by two partners of the law firm, you will find that it was about twenty feet wide and there was ample room on each side of the slit in the door for Dorland and Mrs. Clapp to conceal themselves if they were guilty of any impropriety. They must have been more or less before the slit in the door in order to reveal what Mrs. Roehrig stated she saw there. To say the very least of it, although her evidence was not impeached before the Committee, it appears to me that she was rather a suspicious witness. I cannot understand a modest young girl, as she pretended to be, watching such proceedings, as she speaks of, and going next day and telling the senior member of the law firm what she had seen. It is a most extraordinary circumstance to say the least of it.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B. C.)—She is a married woman.

HON. MR. McINNES (B. C.)—She was not a married woman at that time. She

was merely a typewriter in the same building; she has been married since. Another thing which I hope you will not forget for a moment, because it is one of the most important of all the facts adduced before that Committee, is this: Mr. Dorland, who is a man of considerable importance appeared to give evidence. So far as I am able to judge he did so without any hope of reward of any kind whatever. If he was guilty of what was alleged, can you imagine that he would come from a foreign country to perjure himself for the sake of the respondent? If he was guilty, I think the chances are 19 out of 20 that he would not have appeared before the Committee. Consequently I attach greater importance to the evidence of this lawyer than to all the other evidence combined. A man must be low indeed in the scale of humanity, must be dead to all sense of honor and shame and fear of a future state, when he will voluntarily, without hope of reward, come from a foreign country and perjure himself in the manner that we are asked to believe he did in this case. I can understand that if he was compelled to come and give evidence there might be some doubt as to his veracity, but he came voluntarily, without hope of reward, and he substantiates every statement made by the respondent. I must accept his evidence in preference to that of all the other witnesses. Besides reading the evidence in this case, I heard a portion of it given in committee. I heard Mrs. Clapp's testimony and I must say that it was the best evidence I ever heard given by any witness. Even when she was pressed by questions that had a tendency to criminate her, she never shrank from them, but answered truthfully and openly, and the impression made upon me was, that, although she was an exceedingly indiscreet woman, and may have been guilty of irregularities, the evidence she gave there was true in every respect. The hon. gentleman from Calgary has referred to the fact that her husband provided her with a good home: he forgot to tell you that her husband also provided her with a good pair of black eyes. His treatment of her certainly was anything but manly, and I believe that in nineteen out of twenty cases where women unfortunately go astray they are, not driven, but certainly assisted in that wrong course by the cold and harsh treatment of their husbands. I shall vote against this Bill.