

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The honourable gentleman from Arthabaska (Hon. Mr. Lavergne) tells me he was present.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Order.

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: What did I say?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The honourable gentleman from Arthabaska says he heard the Postmaster General himself say that in the past the French-Canadians had been obliged to shoot holes into the British flag in order to obtain freedom.

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: Honourable gentlemen, I rise again to deny what the honourable gentleman from Arthabaska (Hon. Mr. Lavergne) has said. None of them know what they are saying. I defy them to quote the words which they are attributing to me.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Will the honourable gentleman state under what circumstances he used that phrase?

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: My turn will come to tell something to my honourable friend, and what I intend to say I will prove. A campaign of lies has been going on too long. It must be stopped.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The honourable gentleman did not seem to fare very well, nor did his reputation, in his own county, Champlain, when out of 5,000 or 7,000 votes he gathered 400 or 700 at the most. That is how his own community and his own people judged him.

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: Honourable gentleman, in the county where I was running I got 5,000 votes, which is more than two-thirds of what any one of the gentlemen sitting in the House of Commons ever got. My honourable friend never had the courage to face the electorate.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: When I faced my peers at the Bar of Montreal I generally headed the list.

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: And when you faced your party as organizer and treasurer what did you get?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I got the honour, since I am here. Apparently the honourable gentleman does not deny that he used the expression attributed to him.

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: I do deny it, and I ask the honourable gentleman to take it back.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I asked my honourable friend under what circumstances

he used the words, and he has remained mum.

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: Mr. Speaker, it is a wilful lie: I deny it. I have already stated what I said, and I am not afraid to repeat it: but the least I can ask from this honourable gentleman who is posing as an oracle here is that he should prove what he says.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have done it by the honourable member from Arthabaska.

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: I do not want him to repeat his canard. I want him to tell the truth.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Some day, honourable gentlemen—

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, if I understand anything of the practice of Parliamentary discussion, it is that if a member is charged with a particular act or a particular statement which he absolutely denies, it is the duty of the member who has made the allegation to take it back, and an ex-Speaker of this House should be one of the very first to bow to the well-established practice.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Here is the expression which I used, I have no objection to saying that it was a metaphor.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I said that in 1910, when the present Postmaster General was occupied in shooting holes in the British flag in Drummond-Arthabaska—then I was interrupted. I will readily admit that the honourable gentleman had no gun in his hand, and was not shooting holes in the British flag.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Order.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I will go further and say that as far as my recollection goes the honourable gentleman said elsewhere that he had not used this expression as coming from himself, but that he simply repeated a speech. I think I have the name of the honourable gentleman who did deliver the speech to which he attributed that phrase. That is my recollection as to the honourable gentleman's explanation.

Hon. Mr. BLONDIN: May be. The honourable gentleman from Arthabaska (Hon. Mr. Lavergne) was interested in that election, and I may say that I never happened to meet the honourable gentleman for DeLorimier anywhere where there was any