

Quoting the "women, wine and graft" clause, Mr. Bourassa said:

Although hon. members of this House may be disposed to dismiss it with a laugh, I may tell them that in their laugh there is a trace of cynicism which the people of Canada will resent from this time until the charges have been cleared up. If you think that this matter is going to be settled by a mutual laugh on both sides of the House, I think you are greatly mistaking the morality of the people of Canada."

Proceeding, Mr. Bourassa thus laid down the doctrine:

"Sir, rumors are going all over the City of Ottawa, and insinuations are made right and left in the corridors of the House by members of Parliament and by outsiders. I do not want to believe them, I hope they are untrue, but if one half of them be true, it is not only the right but it is the imperative duty of the Government to intervene."

THE BRITISH RULE.

"In regard to the morality of any Minister of the Crown, here again, as in many other instances, my guiding principle is the one which has been applied for many years past in the conduct of the Government in Great Britain, and the principle in regard to the morality of any British Minister of the Crown is the one which William E. Gladstone adopted and applied in the case of a man far abler and far more useful to the people of Great Britain than can be any Minister of the Crown who has been cited as being in the stocks, and that man was Sir Charles Dilke. Sir, if half what is circulated around the corridors of this House is true—I do not know whether it is true or not true—but if half of it is true, I say it is the duty of the Prime Minister to interfere as Mr. Gladstone had to interfere with the private conduct and private life of Sir Charles Dilke, and if the Prime Minister is remiss in his duty, it is up to this House to show the truth from the man who has the data and material to give and to see that justice shall be done. Otherwise it is not only three or four men who will be held in the stocks, but it is the whole Government, the whole majority of this House that will be held in the stocks by the public opinion of Canada because they do not want the truth to be known and the culprits to be punished."

"In regard to the general accusation about wine, women and graft, I claim that if any Ministers of the Crown—the truth of which accusation I do not know, and I am only giving general facts—are connected with wine and women in such a way that it has become a matter of public scandal, if they have used the property of the Government to carry on their profligate acts, if they have been put out of hotels and public places of amusement because they have been guilty of misconduct with women, and if anybody has a knowledge of these facts he must make them public. If I had the least particle of evidence I would make a charge, but I have not. But I repeat that it is a scandal if the Government and Parliament do not take any action and do not see that a purification takes place."

THE TRUTH MUST BE KNOWN.

In closing Mr. Bourassa said:

"It is up to the Prime Minister to see that his Cabinet is composed of men who are a credit to his party, and who cannot be cited as being the cause of scandal before the country. . . . These exchanges of charges and insinuations have been spread so broadcast and have been so bandied about by newspapers representing the different parties that it is no longer a question of personal accusation by a few men against another few men; it is a question of the necessity of the Parliament of Canada vindicating its own honor and the reputation of our public men. . . . It is never too late for the Parliament of Canada to redeem its honor. . . . The Prime Minister cannot go to London with the Session adjourned in a hasty manner, so that these accusations which have been made public and scattered broadcast and which have been repeated in this House by members of Parliament, should remain uninvestigated until they be forgotten, nobody exculpated and nobody punished, and the Parliament of Canada retaining its honor only because of the gag. The truth must be known; it must be known now."