

# House of Commons Debates

THIRD SESSION—ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

THURSDAY, April 27, 1911.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—MR. HUGHES.

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. In the Ottawa 'Free Press' and I understand in some other papers of recent date there appears an item, trivial it is true, but still more or less important, to the effect that I had apologized to the legal gentleman in the city of Montreal who had defended the prisoner in the recent Masonic trial in that city. I thought I was very fair to that gentleman in explaining to the House, and the country that he had not appealed on his own account to religious fanaticism in order to defend the prisoner. I think I went much further than I might have been expected to do. He explained, as I stated to the House, that his object in referring to religious fanaticism in the trial to show that the prisoner had no intent to commit robbery for the sake of robbery itself, but was carried away by the spirit of fanaticism characteristic of all religious fanatics. I made no apology to any one. I merely recited the statement in fairplay to the gentleman who conducted the defence on that occasion. The object of the barrister was to show that the prisoner was carried away with fanaticism, and had no intention to rob. That was the reason why he brought it in. The fanaticism was admitted as regards the prisoner, but not on the part of the lawyer further than to explain that the prisoner had no intent to commit robbery for his own advantage.

### CHARGES AGAINST MR. A. LANCTOT, M.P.

Mr. W. M. GERMAN, (Welland). Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to move that the third report of the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections be now concurred in. Before submitting the motion, it is perhaps advisable that I should as

shortly as possible explain to the House my views in regard to the evidence that was taken before that committee. The committee had several meetings, and examined a number of witnesses, and were aided in their investigations by counsel employed for the gentleman who made the charge, and for the gentleman against whom the charge was made. Speaking for myself, I wish to say that the committee were very considerably aided by the intelligent manner in which those gentlemen conducted their respective sides of the case. They both showed themselves to be keen examiners, good lawyers, and very correct in their mode of conducting proceedings of this kind. The charge is a very serious one, in so far as a member of this House is concerned. That charge is as follows:

That in the course of the years 1908, 1909 and 1910, irregularities, abuses, frauds, malversations and robberies have been committed in the shops and stores of the government of Canada at St. Joseph de Sorel and in the city of Sorel, in the electoral district of Richelieu.

That barrels and tins of paint and other goods of this nature have been illegally and fraudulently taken and carried away from the said stores and shops and transported to the house of Mr. Adelard Lanctot, then and now a member of the House of Commons of Canada, for the electoral district of Richelieu, which house was then being built on George street, at Sorel above mentioned, and ready to be painted.

That with these goods and paint, paint works, decoration and varnish works, have been done by the employees of the government of Canada under the supervision of the painters' foreman employed by said government at the said place, at the government's expense and during the hours supposed to be devoted to the government and for which said employees were paid by the government, these men registering each day as if they had really worked for the government, and this during weeks and months; the materials and time, thus furnished, are valued at about one thousand or twelve hundred dollars.

That said goods were so fraudulently appropriated to, and said work so fraudulently done at the expense of the government of Canada for the benefit of the said Adelard Lanctot, then and now a member of the House as aforesaid, with his knowledge, assent and approval, the said Adelard Lanctot abusively and fraudulently profiting at the