

he was persuaded to let this in free without the necessary evidence being before him. My hon. friend (Mr. White) is not a child in regard to the things that go on in this world, or in regard to the civil or municipal institutions of this country, and he knows that boards of trade are the most delusive bodies that ever existed on the face of the earth. If there is anything to which I would pay little attention it is to the resolution of a board of trade. These boards are the most irresponsible and unrepresentative people that were ever permitted to live in this country. One or two members can pass a resolution; one alone can move and second it, sign it as president or secretary, and send it to the department. That is all the hon. minister has got, and yet he stands up boldly and says: 'Where is the member for Saskatoon, I dare him to oppose the resolution of the members of the board of trade.' The chances are that when he goes up there to look for those members he will be unable to find one that would take the responsibility of saying that he ever saw or heard of a board of trade. That is the kind of evidence that is submitted. We heard it said yesterday, with a great flourish of trumpets, that the leader of the Opposition was making strong bold statements based on nothing but newspaper scraps. I assure the Minister of Finance that he never saw a poorer scrap of any kind than a resolution of a board of trade, and that is the only evidence upon which he based the great case which he tried to make out here yesterday. Now I want to point out to the Minister of Finance some things that the Government did in connection with the accumulation of the evidence that was thrown at his innocent head by the more crafty hand of the boss who was operating from a distance, and the smiles upon whose crafty face could not be seen by the honest and well-meaning juvenile who reigns over the department.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. McKENZIE: I take back the word 'juvenile,' I will say 'young.' If I say anything that looks in any way disparaging to the Minister, I can assure my excellent friend that there is certainly no 'mens va' behind them. I could point out to the Minister of Finance sources of information to be found in every part of the country and on which he could rely with confidence. Why did he not consult with his own political supporters in the West? One would naturally expect that when a crucial question concerning the West was to be dealt with the Minister of Finance would consult some member supporting his government from the Western provinces. There are muni-

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cipal councillors in the West who are responsible to the people; there are local governments in the West; there is the government of Manitoba, who are friends of his; why did he not consult them? Well, Sir, if I were before a jury, I would tell them that the Minister of Finance is not entitled to the apology he pressed for yesterday. I believe that when he exercises his mind as a lawyer over the evidence submitted to the House he will agree with me that the very opposite of an apology is due to him. I had it in my mind to say something about the rather flippant way in which the Minister of Finance dealt with this question and with the members of the Opposition. I submit with due deference to my hon. friend of large proportions and splendid calibre that I am an older parliamentarian than he, and I would tell any minister, let alone the Minister of Finance, that he cannot afford to be flippant or smart in trying to deal with a public question. That may be all right for an irresponsible man like the member of a board of trade, but when it comes to a minister of finance dealing with public questions he must keep within well defined limits, and I can assure him that his flippancy yesterday was not in keeping with the dignity of the position he occupies. There is such a thing as a man of ordinary capacity forcing that capacity beyond its proper bounds, and I submit to the Minister that while he may be well trained as a financier I do not think he ever was intended to be a Mark Twain. When the Minister of Finance proceeded to be smart, his performance reminded me of the somewhat clumsy antics of an elephant on a hen roost.

Mr. BURNHAM: May I ask a question?

Mr. McKENZIE: Hast thou found me, oh mine enemy?

Mr. BURNHAM: I understood the hon. gentleman to say that something reminded him of the antics of an elephant on a hen coop; has he ever seen an elephant on a hen coop?

Mr. McKENZIE: I have not, but I have seen things just as much out of place. The flippancy exhibited by the Minister of Finance yesterday reminds me that the Hon. Joseph Howe once said that one had "poor taste indeed who would smile at a man with a wooden leg because he limped, but that if a man with a wooden leg undertook to perform the Highland Fling or Sword Dance he was open to ridicule. In attempting to dispose lightly of the leader of the Opposition as the Minister of Finance undertook to do yesterday, he was putting himself in the role of the man with the wooden leg dancing the