

MR. EMMERSON RESIGNS.

This article appeared on March 27. On the 1st day of April it was reported that Mr. Emmerson had resigned his office and on April 2nd the rumour was confirmed by the Premier and by Mr. Emmerson himself. On that date the Premier read the following correspondence:

Office of the Minister of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, April 1, 1907.

Dear Sir Wilfrid,—You and I, and indeed the whole country, have been aware that the attention of Parliament has been interrupted by certain innuendoes against members of your Cabinet. Mere gossip is difficult to meet; but when the medium of the press has been sought to name me as one of your colleagues in a slander, false on its face, I have directed that proceedings be taken against certain newspapers for the purpose of vindicating myself, not only against the direct charge, but also against the insinuation involved therein.

I am conscious that I am in a position to be exonerated in the eyes of the country and yourself.

My object in taking these proceedings is to vindicate my character, aside from all political considerations.

It is expected that you will leave here on Thursday for England in the interests not only of Canada, but of the Empire, and I would be very sorry to prove to be in any way an obstacle to that departure. Of necessity the decision of the courts will not be in time to make you feel free. Feeling as I do that it would be unfair to you, to my colleagues and to the party generally, that I should be under such an imputation while occupying a place in your Cabinet, I have therefore to ask you to accept my resignation as Minister of Railways and Canals.

Assuring you of my personal esteem, and of my gratitude for the many kindnesses shown by you, and of my belief in and adherence to the policy of your Government, and of the hope that my sure vindication will in the end be a matter of satisfaction to you.

I have the honor to be,
Dear Sir Wilfrid,

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) H. R. EMMERSON.

Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, K.C.M.G.,
Premier, Ottawa.

THIS RESIGNATION ACCEPTED.

To this communication the Premier sent to Mr. Emmerson the following reply:

Ottawa, April 1, 1907.

My Dear Emmerson,—I have come to the conclusion that the course which you take is, under existing circumstances, in the public interest. You owe it to yourself, to your colleagues and friends, to clear your character of the charges levelled against it. You could well ignore mere insinuations, but direct and specific charges you do well to face as soon as uttered.

I will place your resignation in the hands of his Excellency.

Let me assure you that I, as well as your colleagues, appreciate the efforts, labor and zeal with which you struggled to advance the public welfare in a most arduous department.

Believe me, my dear Emmerson,
Yours very sincerely,

WILFRID LAURIER.

The Hon. H. R. Emmerson,
Ottawa.