

knows that when my hon. friend from West Ontario accused the Postmaster General of having corruptly offered certain railway companies money which Parliament had voted, upon the assertion by these companies that they wanted public funds to meet their indebtedness, which they were not able, out of their own private means, to meet—he knows very well that the tenth item of those charges stated in so many words that \$100,000 of these moneys had been expended in some 20 or 22 different constituencies or districts of the Province of Quebec, which were in charge of the Postmaster General and which he had undertaken to carry for the Administration. Although this charge was there recited in so many words, although the names of the counties in which the moneys had been expended were given, the hon. gentleman knows that with his own hand he erased that paragraph from the charges. The hon. gentleman is aware that this commission which is to sit upon the charges brought by the hon. member for West Ontario have it not in their authority now to investigate in what manner these \$100,000 were expended in those counties. He knows perfectly well that if my hon. friend from West Ontario were to go before this commission and say, I want to prove not only that the money has been accepted and received by the Postmaster General, but that, as I stated in my indictment and as I am prepared to prove, they were expended in such counties for such purposes, he would be met by the judges with the statement: We have no authority to enquire into these matters, as they have not been referred to us. These matters were excised from the charges, and I remember, if the hon. gentleman has forgotten, the very reasons which he gave for excising them. It was that the investigation into them would be tantamount to trying members for their seats, that it would be converting this investigation into an election court. I am not disputing this point with the hon. gentleman. It would not have been trying those members for their seats, but there was something more than the holding of the seats by the hon. gentlemen elected by means of that money. It was the bringing to the attention of the House and the country the corrupt method by which the Government have been enabled, year after year, to carry the country. This was the reason the charge should have been investigated, and the hon. gentleman knows it is not now in the power of the commission to investigate them. After the House had taken this course of eliminating this charge at the dictation of the hon. gentleman, the *Globe* newspaper began publishing a series of letters and papers and vouchers, which, unless they are claimed to be forgeries, prove conclusively that every word stated by the hon. member for West Ontario in that tenth paragraph is true to the letter. And we know something more. We know that after the publication in the *Globe* newspaper of these letters and vouchers a communication took place between His Excellency and his advisers. Whether this communication took place at the request of His Excellency or whether it was the result of the spontaneous action of his advisers the hon. gentleman did not tell us, but this is not material. Neither did the hon. gentleman tell us what was the nature of the advice which he and his colleagues offered His Excellency. Though invited so to do, the hon. gentleman did not venture to give the House the nature of the advice given by him and his colleagues

Mr. LAURIER.

to His Excellency, but we know very well what it was. We know from his own mouth in this House, though not in answer to that interrogatory, what it was; and I say at once that the advice given by him and his colleagues to His Excellency was not the same as that given to this House, but very different. In this House he stated that there was no occasion to enquire where the money obtained by the Postmaster General, if he obtained it at all, was expended, because that would be trying the seats of some hon. members. But to His Excellency he addressed different language. We have it in his statement to this House in answer to the hon. member for South Oxford. He said:

“The Government did not intend to ask the House to interfere with that investigation or substitute for it a method of investigation which would be less complete and less impartial, nor do they propose in the meantime to express any opinion on the question which that enquiry will involve or on the facts which are to be proved or disproved before the commissioners.”

This implies, since we have to wait for this investigation, that there is a matter to be investigated after all. There is an implication also that the matter therein referred to will be enquired into by the commission. Now, I do not hesitate to say to the hon. gentleman that in the answer he gave there is falsehood and deceit. The hon. gentleman is aware that under the order of reference to the commission, not a word of truth will be known with regard to the application of these moneys alleged to have been received by the Postmaster General from these companies. And, therefore, when the hon. gentleman tells us that we must wait until we have the result of the commission before anything further can be done, there is in his answer falsehood and deceit unworthy of his position as adviser to His Excellency. There is something more in this matter. It is not simply whether the Postmaster General had or had not done what he is accused of having done, but we must go, once for all, to the bottom of the system whereby the Government have been enabled, from time to time, to carry the country. They boast of their strength in the country. But there never was an occasion when they dared to meet their opponents in a fair field on an equal footing. I venture to say that, whenever it may come, as it must come, when we shall be able to meet the Government on their own record and on the record of the Opposition, upon their policy and the policy of the Opposition, they will be swept out of sight. They boast to-day of a large majority in the County of Pontiac. That should be the last thing they should boast of, because their victory has been won by the same methods they have ever employed, and I know whereof I am speaking. The House is aware, because it was brought before the House by the then member, Mr. Murray, that there is in the County of Pontiac a question deeply affecting the people. The people there voted \$150,000 in support of certain individuals who were to carry on a railway. The member then in this House asked the Government for help to pay that bonus. He was refused. The Minister of Railways and the Minister of Militia said it was not possible to do that, and now it is true that the gentleman who has just been elected boasts that he has in his pocket a letter which promises aid and help, and states that, if the people wish to be rid of that bonus which they have voted, they have only to elect him and they will have satisfaction from the