

ment in regard to the foreign policy of the British Empire, occupied only half an hour. It is a well known fact that in the British House of Commons it is not usual for the leader of the Government to make long speeches, or even for the leader of the Opposition to make outrageously long speeches. If members cannot say all they desire to say in one hour, they have a very bad case. If it requires seven hours for the leader of the Opposition to prove charges of wrong-doing against the Government, it is the strongest evidence that his case was a bad one, and required no end of subtle logic to give even the appearance of wrong-doing on the part of the Government. I desire to say something upon this question; and as I shall never have another opportunity, I intend to seize the opportunity thus afforded to speak on the question of the North-West troubles. I know, if I do not speak now —

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not think it is in order to interrupt a speech which is going on. The member for Centre Wellington said he was going to move the adjournment of the House, otherwise his remarks would not have been in order.

Mr. ORTON. I move the adjournment of the House, seconded by Mr. Hesson.

Mr. GIROUARD. I only wish to add one word upon this motion. As I was out of order it appears, a moment ago, I rise for the sole purpose of stating that what the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) said yesterday, and what the newspapers have said, that I had made a bet to speak as long as Mr. Blake, is untrue and absurd.

Motion lost.

Mr. DAWSON. I beg leave to draw the attention of the House to an article which appeared in the *Port Arthur Herald* of the 27th of June, affecting two members of this House, and as it is short, I shall read it:

"We publish below a letter just received from Mr. Macmaster, the representative of Glengarry, and the gentleman who had so much to say the other day in the discussion on the Franchise Bill, about the Highlanders of Scotland. It will be seen that even he, Tory as he is, is trying to get justice done us by the Dominion Government. It seems that Mr. Dawson who has been sent to represent us in the councils of this Dominion, has very little to say or do for us.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA, 19th June, 1885.

'JAMES CONNIE, Esq., Port Arthur, Ont.

"MY DEAR CONNIE.—Your favor of the 8th instant has been duly received. As you seemed very urgent, I immediately saw Mr. Dawson, and after discussing with him for some time on the prospects of the late disputed territory, touching upon the question of the Thunder Bay Railway you mentioned, at which Mr. Dawson rather laughed. He appeared to be free in the discussion, and when asked what were the prospects of its being built, shook his head and remarked that money was too scarce for any more railway building for a number of years. I asked him why the Dominion Government was not asked to grant aid. To this he said it is useless to expect anything while they are so oppressed with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the late rebellion in the North West. I asked him also if he had discussed the matter with the Minister of Railways, Mr. Pope. He evaded the question, remarking that there was not much use talking to the Dominion Ministers about provincial matters, and expressed himself as though he thought that the only source from which aid would be given would be the Province, as that was the proper source from which to receive it, it being a provincial road. He appeared to regret the action of our Government in passing the Act of 1883. This, I think, gives you an idea as you requested, of Mr. Dawson's position as regards your little railway, and I will add myself, that he is utterly powerless to assist in obtaining money or credit for a road, at Ottawa.

"I am pleased to hear of your entrance into politics, but I am sorry to find you in the Grit camp, as I was always under the impression that you were strictly neutral, or had Conservative leanings. However, it will not destroy the old friendship that has existed between us so long.

"I am exceedingly anxious to get away home, this Session seems interminable.

"Yours very truly,

"L. MCMASTER."

Now, Mr. Speaker, with reference to this letter, I have simply to say that no such conversation as therein indicated ever occurred between the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. McMaster) and myself. The hon. member for Glengarry is now in his place, and he will be able to explain what the character of the letter is.

Mr. MACMASTER. Mr. Speaker, this letter is entirely a novelty to me. The only portion with which I am in entire sympathy is: "I am exceedingly anxious to go home, this Session seems interminable. I may say that this letter was not written by me. I had no conversation

Mr. ORTON.

with the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dawson) or with the Hon. Mr. Pope, respecting the subject matters of this letter, and it is, indeed, a combination of fiction, falsehood and forgery, from beginning to end.

Mr. WHITE (Hastings). The *Ottawa Free Press* of yesterday has the following:—

"Two of the Cabinet members are related to men who obtained an Order in Council granting to them the very lands to which the half-breeds sealed their belief in their just claims, by shedding their life's blood. The names of the promoters of the Prince Albert colonisation company and the Cabinet Minister who passed the Order in Council granting them the half-breeds lands with the right of ejection, will go down to all time as fit terms for the hissing and reproach of posterity."

In the first place, let me just say that so far as the Prince Albert Colonisation Company is concerned, the names of the parties connected with the company are all in the Order in Council. The company obtained the lands some three years ago. They gave the Government, I think, 20,000 and some odd dollars. The land, when they got it, was not surveyed; they did not take possession of the land, but they sent in an agent there. They knew nothing about the settlers being on the lands, until Mr. Stephenson, the Government inspector of colonisation companies, went up there and made a report to the Government, that there were some thirty settlers on the land. As soon as the company learned that, they called their members together, and they appointed a committee to wait on the Minister, which was done. That committee was composed of Mr. Hugh Sutherland, President of the company; N. B. Falkner, barrister, Belleville; Mr. David Gilmore of Trenton, and myself. We had nothing whatever to do with negotiating with any of the persons there; we were willing to leave that entirely in the hands of the Government. The company said: We are so earnest in this matter that we will take back our money without interest, or we will take lands in some other section of the country at a fair price. That was the statement made to the Minister. There has been nothing done in regard to those settlers; and I say there is no half-breed, or Indian, or Englishman, or Irishman, or Scotchman—there is no living man can say that the Prince Albert Colonisation Company, directly or indirectly, insulted them or put them off, or interfered with them in any way. So far as I am personally concerned, I can wait until Mr. Sutherland the Member for Selkirk, is here, when he can make a statement publicly of my connection with the company, and then hon. gentlemen will see that we have done nothing, directly or indirectly, that is unfair or unjust to the House of Commons, to the Government, to the country, or to the parties in that section of the country. I make this statement, and I hope it will satisfy the leader of the Opposition. I am quite willing to wait and risk my reputation for the next 12 months that Mr. Sutherland will endorse it if he is, at the end of that time, a member of the House. The men who sent me here know me, and I leave all to them; and I hope that any gentleman who doubts my statement will go over to the Department and ascertain for himself whether it is correct or not. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to make this statement.

Mr. McLELAN. May I be allowed, on behalf of the Cabinet Minister who is charged with instructing the Company to eject persons from lands held by colonisation companies, to deny that charge, and to say that no such authority has ever been given either to the Prince Albert Colonisation Company, or to any other colonisation company, either by the Minister of the Interior or by any other Cabinet Minister, or by the Cabinet as a Whole. The instructions are the very reverse, that people must not be disturbed when they are found settled on colonisation companies' lands.

Mr. SOMERVILLE (Brant). I desire to rise to a question of privilege. I find the following article in the *Ottawa Citizen* of this morning: