

diction of all the known facts. During the month of November, 1919, Mr. Bowser published an interview in the *Province* newspaper, in which he said: "One of the first things I shall do when the House meets will be to move for a committee to investigate this matter," meaning the removal of certain properties alleged to belong to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway by the terms of its settlement with Foley, Welch & Stewart. In that interview the Leader of the Opposition threatened to call for a committee, submit evidence, and make a complete disclosure of improper transactions on the part of the Government. Well, the House met and a month or more passed without any move of this kind by Mr. Bowser.

In one of his speeches, about the middle of the session, the Premier read extracts from this interview to the assembled Legislature. He asked the Leader of the Opposition whether he would deny the authenticity of or responsibility for publication of the interview. Mr. Bowser made no denial. The Premier then called on Mr. Bowser to make good his promise, or threat, and move for a committee of investigation. Premier Oliver challenged Mr. Bowser to proceed then and there "or else hereafter for ever hold his peace." Premier Oliver sat down at his desk and gave Mr. Bowser full opportunity to accept this challenge. Yet Mr. Bowser did not accept the challenge; he made no motion for a committee, and forced the Premier to say he "was clamorous as a clam." In the face of so extraordinary an incident Mr. Bowser continues to tour the Province and to repeat in outlying districts his unwarranted and braggart assertion that Premier Oliver blocks investigation of these matters.

This is not the extent of Mr. Bowser's offensiveness in connection with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway settlement. Before any settlement was made Mr. Bowser knew what were the main lines along which the firm of Foley, Welch & Stewart intended to seek an arrangement with the Government. In other words, he knew the offer of settlement this firm intended to submit, and in this connection Mr. Bowser volunteered the statement that he would not oppose settlement along these proposed lines. He went farther than that. He gave a solemn pledge to the Premier of this Province that he would not obstruct the passing of the settlement Act in the Legislature. That was his own pledge, made in writing, voluntarily. Now, after making such a pledge, after sharing responsibility for the settlement as a member of the House and Leader of the Opposition, you see how incapable he is of standing by his own solemn words.

With regard to the contract for the completion of this railway being let to Mackenzie & Mann, as Mr. Bowser alleges, the statement is not true. The Northern Construction Company are the contractors. Mr. A. E. Mann is at the head of that company, and Premier Oliver says: "As far as I know, neither William Mackenzie nor Dann Mann own a dollar of shares in the firm." At all events, tenders were called for; a number were received; the tender of the Northern Construction Company was considered the most advantageous to the Province.