

but, after having declared that this was a disgraceful transaction, that these men had spent their life in bribing and defrauding, he has the daring, this hon. member, to rise up and vote in favour of the sale. Well, I believed him to be sincere, I thought he was a business man; I may assure you that he has seriously fallen in my estimation.

When your humble servant now speaking to you, Mr. Chairman, will have said that the owners of this railway have spent their life in corrupting everybody, that they are disgraced, fallen and degraded men, you will not see him rise up to vote for such a transaction; I would have the courage of my opinion, of my convictions and I would not be a party to such a scandal.

Mr. BOULAY (translation): Does the hon. member for Montcalm always speak the truth?

Mr. LAFORTUNE (translation): I might ask if my interlocutor has always spoken the truth.

Mr. BOULAY (translation): Would the hon. member read Mgr. Bruchési's letter?

Mr. LAFORTUNE (translation): I would rather be silent than to gainsay my own bishop, a thing you cannot do; I would rather pass for being in the wrong than to begin a fight against the archbishop of Montreal, and what I have said was relevant, I will let you know that, Sir. And, as to the learned member who has just made such a remark, I would like to know whether he can very well throw me the first stone, for I never did any shuffling, any way.

Mr. Chairman, Mackenzie and Mann are notorious millionaires, and in order to reward them for not having respected their engagements, they were given titles of honour, they were knighted. Isn't that fine! Reward those who don't keep their pledges toward the State and give them the highest titles. Well, the people do not like that. Generally, when men are crowned with such high honours, given titles so lofty as that of Sir, it is on account of honourable conduct, because they have won their bars and received a well-deserved reward, but when I hear the member for Calgary call them thieves, scoundrels, bribers, and declare that these men have passed their lives in bribing everybody, I'd rather not be knighted; under such circumstances, it is an almost worthless and empty honour.

In my province, Mr. Chairman, where I have the honour of practising as Crown Attorney for the twelve past years or so,

if a man lies to obtain any thing of even little value, we call that false pretences; such a party is arraigned before the court and, upon conviction, he is sentenced to jail. Here, it is all the reverse. The more values one can get under false pretences, by doing all sorts of criminal acts, the more honours one is sure to receive. What a fine country! What an encouragement for those people who try to be honest!

I was just speaking of millionaires. But, Mr. Chairman, one must make a distinction in this matter. Some men are found who have become millionaires, thanks to their energy, to their labour, their good conduct or their skill in honest transactions. We must admit that there are millionaires of this kind; let us respect those who have made their millions in honest transactions, but not those who accumulate their wealth through fraud and bribery, as stated by my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. Bennett).

Mr. BOULAY (translation): Will my hon. friend allow me to put him a question?

Mr. LAFORTUNE (translation): Certainly, most certainly so.

Mr. BOULAY (translation): Would my hon. friend kindly tell me when the gentleman he is alluding to has been knighted?

Mr. LAFORTUNE (translation): I regret it, but I do not keep an almanac of those things, I wonder why my hon. friend puts me such a question. Is it for curiosity's sake? Informations are generally asked by people who don't know a thing, but such is not the case with my hon. friend, who must know what is going on among his good friends.

Mr. BOULAY (translation): Have not these gentlemen been knighted under the late administration?

Mr. LAFORTUNE (translation): My hon. friend seems to be well informed. The hon. gentlemen who spoke before me have repeatedly reproached the Minister of Finance and his friends with refusing to produce the list of the debenture holders, stating that this had nothing to do with the case. In our province, when a man who is put a question refuses to answer, it is the same as if he pleaded guilty. When men of such a high standing as the Minister of Finance and his colleagues refuse to show the list of the debenture holders, it looks bad, it squints, as we say. When they take the trouble of saying that the total amount is \$600,483,280.39; it's the 39 cents that amuses me; thirty-nine cents! How important that is! And we ask them the list