

MR. BOURASSA FORCES AN ISSUE.

But on March 26th Mr. Bourassa forced to an issue the question which he had raised on the 21st of February. On a Government motion to go into supply he moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Armand Lavergne, another Liberal with independent leanings:

That the report of the Royal Commission on Life Insurance and the evidence connected therewith have made public various transactions in which members of this House participated—namely, the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster), the hon. member for King's New Brunswick (Mr. Fowler), the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett), the hon. member for Prince, Prince Edward Island (Mr. Lefurgey);

That such transactions have been commented upon by several organs of public opinion, in terms reflecting upon the honor, the integrity and the independence of the above-named gentlemen;

That references to such transactions have been made in this House, during the present session—namely, by the hon. member for Carleton, New Brunswick (Mr. Carvell), on the 7th and 21st days of February, and by the hon. member for Yale-Cariboo (Mr. Ross), on the 19th day of February—in terms indicating that, in the opinion of those two hon. gentlemen, the above-named hon. members are guilty of improper conduct;

That on the 26th day of November last, the hon. member for Wright (Mr. Devlin) referred to the hon. member for North Toronto as being unworthy of a seat in this House, on account of the transactions above-mentioned;

That on the 19th of February last, the hon. member for King's, New Brunswick (Mr. Fowler), addressing the hon. member for Yale-Cariboo (Mr. Ross), stated: "We will show your connection with Mr. Hill—and we will give you the true insight of the Hyman story too," and added, "I shall discuss the character of hon. members opposite, whether they be ministers or private members, and their connection with women, wine and graft."

That these statements have become a matter of general comment and have aroused public opinion throughout the country, so that an immediate inquiry is imperative;

That the Prime Minister and his colleagues, being the principal guardians of the honor of Parliament, should take the initiative in such an inquiry;

That the Government should therefore ask the House to constitute a special committee to conduct a strict and impartial inquiry as to whether any Ministers of the Crown or members of Parliament have improperly made use of their positions as such for their private gain or have otherwise been guilty of personal misconduct under such circumstances or of such a character as to justify the intervention and censure of this House;

That any charges that may be preferred against any member of the Government or of the House should be formulated before that committee, and that members of this House or other persons who have material or data at their disposal with reference thereto should divulge them to that committee;

That such committee have power to employ and hear counsel, to send for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses on oath or affirmation, and to report to the House during the present session.

AN INDEPENDENT LIBERAL VIEW.

Notice had been given of this motion, and the galleries were crowded while Mr. Bourassa addressed the House. He declared that he brought the question forward to give voice in Parliament to the clamour of public opinion, which was losing confidence in the integrity of Canadian representative institutions. Mr. Bourassa recalled the statement of the Premier that Parliament would have to take action during the session upon the insurance charges and upon the matters mentioned by Mr. Fowler. Yet the Premier was now taking the ground that there were no charges against anybody and