

wherever else fair play is known, no man could be expected to have got any other answer than the one he got from the House.

If the hon. member had risen in his place and said of his own knowledge that he was personally cognizant of certain facts, then the House might have considered those facts as proved, at all events deficient for a *prima facie* case for inquiry, but the hon. member for Shefford (Hon. Mr. Huntington) did not pretend to say so, but rose in the House and said he was credibly informed of certain facts, and thereupon asked for a Committee to try the Government, and not only so, but to try whether the legislation of the previous session was corrupt or non-corrupt; whether the members of Parliament who had voted for the Government were right or wrong, and whether that charter, to which great credit was attached, was fraudulent or valid. And on the nonce, when the hon. gentleman made the proposition, we resolved to leave it to the House to say whether they believed that the facts had occurred. When the hon. gentleman stated that he was credibly informed that such was true, the House voted down the motion.

On the next day I gave notice that I would introduce the resolution which I did introduce. I gave notice of the resolution, and there is a little history with the resolution to which I will call the attention of the House. It is reported that at a meeting at New Glasgow the hon. member for Lambton (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) stated that that resolution which I moved was forced upon me by my own followers, and that members on this side of the House had come to me to urge me to introduce that resolution. The hon. gentleman had heard my denial. He heard my speech; he was in his place when I made that speech, and interrupted me several times, and I then turned round and asked my friends if any of them had come to me to force me by any influence, or language, or anything of the kind, to come down to the House with that motion. I should like to know the names of those eight members.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: I am quite satisfied I never mentioned eight names. (*Ministerial cries of "How many?"*) I said I was informed, as I was, that it was because of the pressure his supporters had brought to bear that an inquiry had been asked for next day.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD (Pictou): I wish to state what did occur at the meeting, and there will, I think, be no difference of opinion between the member for Lambton and myself as to the question of fact. The hon. member during his address stated that the leader of the Government was compelled by the pressure of his own friends in the House—I don't recollect that he stated eight members—to bring down the motion for a Committee to the House. I interrupted and said: "Why, did you not hear Sir John Macdonald declare that he did not introduce that resolution owing to the pressure of his friends or any friend?" The hon. gentleman replied: "I did not. I now declare he was pressed by his friends."

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: The statement made by the hon. member for Pictou is quite correct. I stated I had no recollection of

that statement being made, but as the hon. gentleman had said that it was made, I was bound to believe it, but I was still prepared to say that the information I had was that the leader of the Government was compelled by the pressure of his friends to make that motion. I am borne out in that by what the member for Shelburne (Mr. Coffin) stated the other day in the House. He for one was obliged to bring that pressure to bear the next day. (*Opposition cheers.*) I cannot recollect all the others, but I heard similar matters mentioned by some others.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: I have got the speech here, and before the debate closes I shall refer to it, because I do not like any misapprehension on these matters. I am satisfied the hon. gentleman said so, as he is reported, and I can state here that the hon. gentleman had his own reporter present. The hon. gentleman was reported to have said:—"I may inform the hon. gentleman there were eight of the Government supporters who put the screw on him." In other words—

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: I am perfectly certain I did not use the word screw.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: Now, I have occasion to repeat what I stated then, that no member of the Party, and not only no member of the Party, but not one of my own colleagues, spoke to me on the subject until I had announced my own determination. (*Loud cheers from Ministerial benches.*) The motion took us by surprise, and we met it, as I think we ought to have met it by voting it down.

Next day I came down late and walked into the Council room at half-past one. My colleagues were all sitting around. I said to them, after consideration: "I have made up my mind that I will move for a Committee," before any one had spoken. I had stated my intention without a single suggestion from any man, that as the charge was of such a nature that I would move for the appointment of a Committee and bring such motion before Parliament on the following day. And that is the way that the characters of men are lied away in this country. I do not mean to say that the hon. member for Lambton has lied down my character because he had denied it. What I do mean to say, it has been lied away by the mistake of a reporter who thought that he was reporting his words. I have now got the report here. It is from the *Halifax Citizen*. Perhaps the hon. member knows that his friend who formerly sat in this House for Halifax is the proprietor of this paper, or that he certainly writes for it. (*Hear, hear and cheers.*) Here is the newspaper, and if the hon. gentleman thinks I have made a mistake, and if he thinks I have done him an injustice perhaps he will be patient with me while I read the few sentences:—"Some gentlemen afterwards informed Hon. Sir A. John Macdonald that before they voted with him an inquiry there must be. He was then compelled to come down and say that he himself moved an inquiry on the following day."

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: What about the eight that the hon. member spoke of. (*Laughter.*) I refer to what the hon. member for Shelburne (Mr. Coffin) stated the other night.