

continue to support you. But your accusation that I broke the agreement is false. The 'Leader' did not oppose your election. I could not follow you in your somersault on the school question, but I endeavoured to be not only just but generous. I gave your friends the 'Leader' to be used as an organ to fight for your election.

Mr. FOSTER. Dispense.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman thinks I should dispense. I just wish to tell him that some strong statements have been made by Mr. Scott, and as Mr. Scott is not a member of this House, I think this letter should be placed before it.

Mr. DAVIN. Read on.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Scott says substantially that when the election came on, he handed the paper over to the Conservative party for the purpose of fighting the election. As he was opposed to separate schools being forced on Manitoba, he could not conscientiously support the Conservative party, and, therefore, he handed the paper over to the political friend of the hon. gentleman. Mr. Scott has published all the correspondence and agreements, and in an open, manly manner, has placed all the facts before the public. Here is the agreement:

Regina, May 14, 1896.

Agreement between Walter Scott, of Regina, publisher, and William Cayley Hamilton and James Allan MacCaul, of Regina, gentlemen.

Said Scott agrees to transfer control of the Regina 'Leader' newspaper to said Hamilton and MacCaul until and including 23rd June, 1896, it being understood that all space now occupied as advertising space or that may be regularly contracted for as such shall remain under the control and for the benefit of Scott. The space for reading matter outside advertisements shall not be limited to less than eleven columns. The newspaper shall, while under such editorial control in its general departments, be maintained by said Hamilton and MacCaul in its usual state of efficiency. All editorial matter for the week is to be furnished not later than four o'clock of the Wednesday in each week preceding the day of issue, and all other matter shall be supplied with such regularity and promptness as not to interfere with or delay the regular issue of the paper. Scott agrees to allow office accommodation for one person to be placed and kept in the 'Leader' office for the purpose of this agreement until the expiry of said term. Security by bond or covenant is to be furnished by said Hamilton and McCaul to the effect that no defamatory article shall be published in the portion of the said newspaper placed under their charge, and that in the event of any such article being published, the said Scott will be fully indemnified against all claims for damages by reason of such article. After the coming election Scott is to be at liberty to pursue any policy he may choose in the 'Leader' newspaper, notwithstanding the agreement heretofore entered into between Scott and Davin and the 'Leader' Company, and said Hamilton and McCaul have Davin's authority for agreeing hereto on his behalf.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it in order, Mr. Chairman, for an hon. gentleman to keep us here

all night reading an old newspaper from Regina. If so we can be kept here for any other old thing. It opens up a wonderful vista, if this kind of thing is to be allowed.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman raised no objection while the hon. member for Assiniboia read letters, but when I want to read other letters he says that our time may be occupied with any old thing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I was not here when the discussion began, and would like to have an explanation as to how it relates to the item before the House.

Mr. DAVIS. In the Auditor General's Report there is certain correspondence between him and the hon. member for West Assiniboia and the Deputy Minister of the Interior and other parties in connection with the payment of \$175. When the item came up for the payment of a certain amount to Mr. Rothwell, one of the chief clerks in the Department of the Interior, the hon. member for West Assiniboia objected to the payment because he had grievance against Mr. Rothwell for some correspondence which appeared in the Auditor General's Report, and he proceeded to discuss the whole matter although told he had better leave the question over until the report of the Public Accounts Committee was brought on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. My opinion is that the item we are now discussing will not allow of the discussion which is now going on and has been going on for some time.

Mr. DAVIN. I hope, Sir, that you will allow the hon. gentleman to go on. I wish to say—

Mr. DAVIS. If I am to be choked off, I object to the hon. gentleman taking up the matter again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. This discussion is not in order just now.

Mr. DAVIN. After you have allowed the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman, to make a lot of statements respecting me, you surely cannot rule that I have not the right to reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. When an irregular discussion takes place, I am bound to give a ruling as soon as attention is drawn to it.

Mr. DAVIN. Am I to understand that an hon. gentleman can read a letter addressed to me containing a tissue of falsehoods and make a lot of comments of an offensive character and I am not to say anything.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I am bound by the rules of the House and must rule the whole discussion out of order.