

humorous way by the men who drew up the affidavit, and when at the end of it they add their appreciation of the institutions of this country, and their appreciation of liberty, and laugh about it and say, 'if you can get an acquittal, get it,' I would have a very poor appreciation of the outrage which these gentlemen are endeavouring to place before the people of this country as having been inflicted upon innocent youth, which is, I think, what the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) called the gentleman. What is the sum total of the outrage inflicted upon these people? The sum total is, that three or four men, who came into the constituency and drew upon themselves, justly, a very large measure of suspicion, were arrested, and a certain amount of punishment was inflicted upon them, but not enough. That is the objection: not enough punishment was inflicted. With regard to the provincial police of Manitoba, the ex-Minister of Public Works asked the hon. member for Edmonton if these men were all provincial police, and he did not know. He said they might have been, but he did not know. These men are duly accredited minions of the law, if you choose so to call them. We have all the witnesses summoned before a justice of the peace, and the trials and preliminaries were conducted before the regulation appointees of the Government. Some of the men who were concerned in these may have been, and likely were, appointees of the late Dominion government, though we have no evidence of that. We must approach this subject, and treat it as a serious subject, and with some regard for propriety. The hon. member for Edmonton cannot be coerced or cajoled into saying he knows a thing he does not know, and he does not know, as he said at the beginning and at the end, that there are any facts to justify action by this House. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church felt that they had to justify the insinuation. They stopped there for the good of this country. I wish they had gone further.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): What were they talking about?

Mr. BURNHAM: I would like the hon. member for Pictou to tell me what they were talking about.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): You are doing the talking.

Mr. BURNHAM. I am, but I am not prepared to say what the Presbyterian Synod were talking about, because they left it in a very vague way—almost inarticulate, I might say. I think it behooves the people who are making charges to strike out straight from the shoulder, to make these charges in detail, and not merely to say

that So and So were treated so and so. The Government of Manitoba actually arrested, at the request of a leading Liberal, two men on a charge of personation. Just fancy that. These minions of the law, who perpetrated such an indignity on such innocent guileless youths, had the temerity to arrest them at the request of the Liberal party.

Mr. CARVELL: And immediately let them go.

Mr. BURNHAM: They were not allowed to go. They were fined \$50 and costs. I agree that they should have been stuck in jail for a couple of years. I am not saying that full justice has been done in this case. I am not saying that, but I do say that the present Government in Manitoba, and the Conservative member now sitting for Macdonald, had to fight against a gang that required all their ingenuity, boldness and resources to handle. I think I am voicing the opinion of the people of this country when I say that neither side can boast of their political virtue, and it behooves both sides to improve considerably in that respect. Were it not for the fact that the leaders on both sides have the implicit confidence of this country, it would be impossible to conduct government another hour. It is not for one moment to be supposed that any one is so stupid as to give a complete certificate of character to either party. The circumstances are there, we all know them. We all know the suggestions made by both parties. Some men cannot win fairly, they do not know enough, they have not got the courage, and when they excite suspicion by crawling through the cracks in the fence or under the canvas, and when they get spanked a little bit they cry about the liberty of the subject being infringed, and they call down high Heaven to bear witness to the outrage that has been inflicted upon the political heroes of this country. Well, to do them justice, and it is probably one of the safeguards of the country, to do them justice, they laugh in their sleeve. What is that man who drew up that affidavit talking about when he laughed at it, and what was he talking of when in another affidavit he admits that he was quite willing to take an honourable acquittal. What is the Presbyterian talking about? If one man thought it was a joke, why did they not laugh? If the deponent himself laughed at it, what is the matter with the Presbyterian?

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): It was the Synod, it was not the Presbyterian.

Mr. BURNHAM: Well, the Synod.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): We had better investigate.