

to refer to a debate which I think is entirely out of place on this occasion. I may say to the hon. gentleman that if he wishes to attack me about my public acts or conduct he will find me ready to meet him at any time. That hon. gentleman has chosen to say that I have boasted that I brought before Parliament a private grievance and assailed the Grand Trunk because of that private grievance. I deny it; it is not true. I have never done so. I have never boasted in this Parliament that I brought the Grand Trunk before Parliament for the purpose of ventilating any private grievance I have had with them. That hon. gentleman, and those who are associated with him, and the tools of the Grand Trunk in this House and elsewhere—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MITCHELL. You shut up with your order. He has chosen to try to assail me because I had independence enough, when the Grand Trunk Company attempted to override this House, when the hon. gentleman presiding over what he professed to call the leading organ—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MITCHELL. Where am I out of order? Let any of the hon. gentlemen who are cackling behind on the back benches state where I am out of order. I will keep in order, and I am in order when I say that the hon. gentleman who presided over what he called—

Mr. McCALLUM. I rise to order. I do not think the hon. gentleman is in order when he calls the members of this House tools of the Government.

Mr. BLAKE. He said that hon. gentleman behind him were cackling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman must confine himself to a personal explanation.

Mr. MITCHELL. Yes, the hon. gentleman who poses in a public position—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MITCHELL.—chose to step out of his way and attack me, who have occupied an independent position in this House—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MITCHELL. If I could get my eye on the fellow on those back benches who is calling order, I would deal with him. The hon. gentleman has chosen to attack me because he says I have introduced into the discussions of this House my personal grievances against a public company. I challenge him to point out where I have ever done so. I have known occasions where that gentleman and the like of him have attempted—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order. The hon. gentleman must confine himself to the explanation.

Mr. MITCHELL. I am giving the explanation, and I appeal to this House whether I am not justified in—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear; chair, chair.

Mr. MITCHELL. I am not going to allow any man to attack me and impute motives to me, and assail my reputation and public character, a public character that stands as well as that of any man in this House. No man is going to do that with impunity, and the man who does it has to take what he gets. I say that while that gentleman, the Minister of the Interior, before he occupied that position, claimed, as he did, that he presided over the most

important paper—the most important public journal in Quebec—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MITCHELL.—that that railway company—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. That is not a personal explanation.

Mr. MITCHELL. Excuse me, Sir, I am in my right.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order; chair, chair.

Mr. MITCHELL. I am in my right. I say that hon. gentleman has charged me—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order; chair, chair.

Mr. MITCHELL. That hon. gentleman has charged me with assailing the Grand Trunk Company. He has imputed motives to me and, Sir, they are not true. He has charged me with doing in my public capacity what I have never done, but I will tell you what I have done and what he has not dared to do, because his bread and butter depended on it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MITCHELL. When the Grand Trunk Company through their president, their active manager, Mr. Hickson, wrote a letter threatening this Government and Parliament three years ago, that if they dared to give legislation to the Canadian Pacific Railway they would bring condign punishment on the Government, when the hon. member over there, the hon. gentleman who poses now as an independent man, as a member of the Cabinet, did he dare—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MITCHELL. I would like to see the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Townshend) who is calling order, come down here and face me himself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I have asked the hon. gentleman to confine himself to a personal explanation.

Mr. MITCHELL. I am defending myself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not think you are. That is the decision of the Chair, and I hope the hon. gentleman will accept it. If he has any personal explanation the House, I am sure, will listen to him, but he cannot go beyond it.

Mr. MITCHELL. I am endeavoring to confine myself to a personal explanation.

Mr. TOWNSHEND. I wish to say that I said nothing whatever, and while I quite agree with those who did call him to order, I did not myself call him to order.

Mr. MITCHELL. I accept the hon. gentleman's explanation—I was going to say apology, but I thought he was the hon. gentleman who made the noise. What the Minister of the Interior said was this, that I had made use of my position to assail the Grand Trunk Railway Company and to gratify personal grievances. He said I boasted in this House that I had done so. Now, Sir, I never boasted in this House that I had done so; and I tell that hon. gentleman that when he stated that, he stated what he knew was not correct, because I had never done so; whatever might be my private feelings, I had never boasted of it. I have the courage of the convictions I entertain; and, as I stated, when he imputes that motive to me, I state to this House, and I am in order in stating, some of the reasons which influenced him; and when Mr. Hickson openly threatened this House and Parliament, and this country; when he and his officers openly outraged this Parliament by stealing legislation