

ment between the Conservatives and the Government for the suppression of any facts or the prevention of any investigation. Mr. Borden used the following language (Hansard, 1907, page 3508) :

If there is any charge contained in the evidence taken before the Insurance Commission, or if there should be any charge in the report of that commission against the public honor of any man on this side of the House, standing here, as I do, and the position I occupy, I pledge myself that I will give to the Prime Minister of this country and to this Parliament, the best of my assistance to probe such a charge to the very bottom. That is all I have to say about that. I agree with the Prime Minister that it is impossible that the session should close until any charges which have been insinuated are either withdrawn or brought on for discussion and consideration. So far as I am concerned—and I speak for every man on this side of the House in that regard—we do not propose that this session shall end until that matter has been discussed, and until that investigation has been made. That is all it is necessary to say as to that at this moment.

AN ASTONISHING CHANGE.

From this time forward there was a remarkable change in the conduct of members supporting the Government. After Mr. Fowler had given notice, as quoted above, there were no more reflections passed across the Chamber in his direction. The member for King's was treated thereafter with extreme courtesy, and even with distinguished consideration by members of Parliament on the other side, though he was abused more vigorously than ever by the Government press. It soon became evident that the Government party in Parliament had found one clear line of policy. That was to be kind and polite to Mr. George W. Fowler. A marked improvement also took place in the treatment of Mr. Foster and other Conservatives.

NO CHARGES RESPECTING INSURANCE.

In due time the insurance report came down, and after waiting for the Government or some Government supporter to bring before the House the matters contained in it, or to make some charge based upon the report, Mr. Foster himself, brought up the question and made his own vindication, while he exposed the misrepresentations of the Commissioners and the falsehoods contained in the alleged findings. Though the Minister of Justice undertook to defend the Commission, no charge was made in the House against Mr. Foster or any other member, and the Government majority voted down without further discussion two motions moved by Opposition members condemning the insurance report. This insurance matter is mentioned here to show how the Government party failed to proceed with any charges, or even to make a declaration of censure when brought to face with the issue. The first of these insurance debates took place on April 10th and 11th and the second on April 17th. In the first case the Government was wholly on the defensive, in the second it was silent under attack.