

that my hon. friend (Mr. Ross) is a veteran of this House; one of the oldest parliamentarians in Canada; a gentleman approaching four score years. I do think that something is due to the occasion, and to a respected and venerable member of this House.

Mr. INGRAM. I have nothing to take back.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Ross) states to the House that he did not write the letter or authorize it, we are bound to accept his statement. Perhaps it was a little unfortunate that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross) undertook to lecture the House about the manner of conducting business. We are entitled to our own opinions as to the criticism which we are disposed to offer. While there is not one of us who has not the utmost respect and esteem for the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Ross) still, possibly his remarks just now were a little uncalled for and they very likely led to the incident which has just taken place. In view of his denial that he wrote or authorized the letter, I think we should at once accept his statement, and I would ask my hon. friends on this side of the House to let the incident drop.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. INGRAM. I was discussing the question under debate in this House—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. You were perfectly right.

Mr. INGRAM. And I shall further discuss that question notwithstanding the hon. member from Victoria (Mr. Ross). Personally I have nothing to retract, and I don't propose to retract. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross) thinks that we are discussing rot in connection with this item, let me draw his attention to what the item is, and probably he may change his mind. We are discussing a vote of \$6,500,000 for working expenses on the Intercolonial Railway. If that is rot to the member for Victoria, it is not rot to me. In this vote is included the employment of unnecessary men on the Intercolonial Railway and in this vote is included a lot of money which will be wasted on political friends and political management. I am perfectly within my rights when I am discussing that, and I do not propose to take any lectures from the member for Victoria (Mr. Ross).

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). You have been discussing the Guysborough election for the better part of the day.

Mr. INGRAM. Yes, and that is perfectly in order. No body has heard my friend (Hon. Mr. Ross) find fault with the government, and if we waited until he rose in his place and discussed this and other items, there would be very little discussion and a very short session indeed.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. So much the better.

Mr. INGRAM. Here is another fresh one who has just come in.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. Better be too fresh than too rusty.

Mr. INGRAM. When my young friend is a few years in the House he will learn to hang his hat on a peg. He will know less in the next five or six years than he thinks he knows to-day. Let me give him a piece of advice: don't be quite so fresh my young friend and you will get along better. I have no desire to prolong the discussion on this item; I have said all I want to say on it, and what I have said, I believe to be correct.

Mr. HAGGART. I wish to get the information which the minister promised with reference to the expenditure on capital account on the Intercolonial Railway and the Prince Edward Island railways.

Mr. EMMERSON. I will get the information. The general manager has retired.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Not permanently retired.

Mr. EMMERSON. No; voluntarily retired for the moment.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I do not intend to prolong the discussion, but I suppose it will be expected that something should be heard from me as the question of the Guysborough election has been so long under discussion this afternoon. I think, Sir, it is unfortunate that we should have to waste the time of the House at this late hour of the session in fighting over our petty election contests, but there does not seem to be anything too petty to engage the attention of some hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. For a number of weeks I have noticed a great deal of anonymous correspondence in the Conservative press throughout the country, with reference to the Guysborough election.

In this correspondence all sorts of crimes and misdemeanours are charged against the good people of the county which I have the honour to represent. Not only has there been anonymous correspondence of this character, but there have been similar editorials in some of these journals. These charges have been reiterated so often that it appeared to me that an attempt was being made to repeat these false statements so often that some credulous persons would accept them. I have made it a rule in the short time I have been in public life to take very little notice of the statements made by anonymous correspondents in newspapers, and I think I might apply the same rule to the editorial attacks of some of those journals. At the same time I do not wish it to be understood by hon. gentlemen opposite or by any one that I would like to