

Mr. DURANLEAU: I want to say to this house that no document was ever altered either by myself or by my officials to my knowledge.

Mr. POULIOT: We will say it on the public platform.

Mr. BENNETT: This question does not affect the minister any more than it affects other hon. members. The motion reads as follows:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between (a) the right honourable Prime Minister, (b) the honourable Minister of Marine, (c) the honourable Postmaster General, (d) the honourable Solicitor General, (e) the honourable Secretary of State, (f) the private secretary or assistant-secretary of each one of them and Mr. C. E. Dubé, regarding the construction of a new railway station at Rivière du Loup, from June 1 to June 30, 1930.

That was the first document read to-day. The next document to which the hon. member referred was questioned and I asked him to drop it which he, quite properly in my judgment, agreed to do.

Mr. POULIOT: I like the right hon. the Prime Minister much better than some of his colleagues.

Mr. BENNETT: The Minister of Marine asked that this order should stand and His Honour was recording the fact that it was to stand, whereupon the hon. member used language which in my opinion was unparliamentary. As I have just indicated, the course to be followed would be for the clerk to take down the words, but he would have to rely upon the Hansard reporter to whom he would go to get his information because he is not a shorthand writer. In view of the defiance and the subsequent language of the hon. member for Temiscouata, I ask him if he does not feel disposed to do what I think his good sense and the courtesy of debate will induce him to believe to be the proper thing; if he does not think it to be in the interest of the maintenance of proper decorum in this house that he should unreservedly withdraw the words he used. I have known the hon. gentleman for many years and I still have some belief that his regard for the traditions of this house will warrant his doing what for the moment he may find to be a difficult thing to do. Any one of us might find it to be a difficult thing, but I believe his common sense will induce him to believe that that is the proper thing to do. I appeal to him once more to adopt this course for the sake of this institution, the House of Commons, and for the proper conduct of debate. He suggested that marks might

be put upon a letter which would indicate that it was personal and confidential when in fact it was not so; it means that or nothing. I do not believe that this House of Commons, nor this government, can conduct public business if hon. members are to make statements such as that. There is always the committee on privileges and elections to which the hon. gentleman could refer this matter. I do not think it would be worth while for anyone to be in public life if he is to be told by one of his fellow members in the House of Commons that a certain matter can stand over until to-morrow if he does not do something to it which in law would constitute forgery. I put it to the hon. gentleman in that way.

Mr. POULIOT: What does the right hon. gentleman object to in my remark? What were the words to which he objects?

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot charge my memory with the exact words, but the sense of the remark is, "provided they are not marked private and confidential between now and the time they are brought down."

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Speaker, I believe this case has been settled by yourself because you sat down apparently accepting entirely what I had said. I am pleased to say that I did what I did out of personal consideration for Your Honour, and I do not regret having taken that action.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want any hon. member to take any course of action because of personal consideration for me. The language was unparliamentary and should not have been uttered, and the request made to the hon. member was that he withdraw it.

Mr. POULIOT: And so I did.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has done it in a grudging manner; he should withdraw his remark in an unequivocal way.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Speaker, I bow to your ruling, agree that the words expressed are unparliamentary, and therefore beg to withdraw them. I refer the house to the words used by the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) as they appear on page 2807 of Hansard.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman's last statement is quite satisfactory. However, I do not think any hon. member of this house should say that he is taking a certain action out of regard for the Speaker when his re-