

Mr. BURNHAM: I may say I do not think he made out a case at all. I will say this, that if it would tend to clear up a matter of such importance by all means appoint a Parliamentary Committee. If the general opinion of a large proportion of the people of this country is, rightly or wrongly, that a Parliamentary Committee should be appointed, by all means appoint it. I am asked if on this statement of the case by the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) I think a prima facie case has been made out. I say frankly that I believe in all sincerity that if this is all that is in the charges that have been made there is nothing in them at all. There are three affidavits. What does one man say?

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): I am not surprised that the hon. member never observed any irregularities in Peterborough.

Mr. BURNHAM: We observed the irregularities all right. They will not occur again. I promise you that. One of these gentlemen says that after having spent his time more or less I presume in political organizations in Ontario, he went into Manitoba in or about the month of September and found himself in the course of his travels in the constituency of Macdonald, where, being a strong party man, he put himself into communication with the executive and straightway was employed in good, sharp, smart electoral work in Macdonald.

Mr. PARDEE: The affidavit does not say so.

Mr. BURNHAM: Oh, yes.

Mr. PARDEE: He does not say good sharp, smart work; he says employed in organization work.

Mr. BURNHAM: Certainly, I admit that I used those words, that is comment on my part, but I thought possibly they did not understand an awful lot—

Mr. PARDEE: They seem to have understood more than the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BURNHAM: The Liberals have had a bad day to-day. However, as a humble member of the back benches of this House and with some sense of honour, I hope I am entitled, to the best of my ability, to analyse an extremely serious case; because, if the allegations are at all to be justified, something undoubtedly must be done. This man Sullivan came forward and, it is stated on the authority of no less a man than the Premier of the province of Manitoba, that he registered under a false name. I do not want to know anything more about any man than that.

Mr. McLEAN (Halifax).

Mr. PARDEE: The Premier of Manitoba did that.

Mr. BURNHAM: I am not discussing that part of it. If he did, I certainly may not—

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers) did it once.

Mr. BURNHAM: If you have evidence of that fact, why not bring it forward? However, I see that the hon. gentlemen are not disposed to discuss this question; they want to discuss something else.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): Will the hon. gentleman tell the House why it was that the prosecutors who laid the informations and arrested these gentlemen did not furnish some evidence at a hearing to show that they were guilty of some offence under the law?

Mr. BURNHAM: I think the prosecutors were extremely silly. I think they certainly indicated that there was no evidence. That is fair.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): Hear, hear.

Mr. BURNHAM: That is only a fair assumption. The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) as a lawyer knows that he has gone into court before this and told the court that he had no evidence to offer, not because he had no evidence, but because that is the technical phrase you use when you wish to discontinue a prosecution. That is a fact. I say that if I had been the prosecutor, I would have prosecuted.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): What would you have done if you had no evidence?

Mr. BURNHAM: If I had had anything to do with the arresting, I do not think the man would have been arrested.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BURNHAM: I do say this, that when the deponent, as disclosed in the affidavit, has treated the matter as a joke, and laughed about it, and in another case said he was quite willing to have a verdict of acquittal if it could be got, and in another case admitted he had brought suspicion upon himself by saying such words as, 'I did not say I gave you that money for your vote,' it is all very well to laugh, but when people are in the midst of trying times, and war's alarms, they had better walk circumspectly. When men are so outraged with regard to their liberty that they can treat the whole matter as a joke, I for one, believe they are guilty. When they were arrested and put through a course of thin porridge and thin soup and all that sort of thing, as outlined in detail in a very