

House of Commons Debates.

FIFTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH

OF

MR. HENRI BOURASSA, M.P.

ON

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1900.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). Mr. Speaker, I am sure that neither you nor any other member of this House expected that such a small cause would produce such a big effect. At first I felt disposed to stand as a defender of the gentleman who sent the report to the *Free Press*, but I feel now rather disposed to vote for the expulsion of any member of the press gallery if the shortest newspaper report forces us to listen to such a long page from the history of this country, and to such a complete autobiography as we have been subjected to. In a general way I fully partake of the view expressed by the right hon. Prime

Minister and the hon. leader of the opposition, that every speech which is uttered not only in this House, but on every public platform in the country, should be faithfully and correctly reported by the representatives of the press, whatever may be the political shade of either the speaker or the reporter. If there is anything wanting in the political life of this country, it is accuracy and independence in the reports and articles that appear in the public press. But in the present instance, let us look at the sentence which was objected to by the hon. leader of the opposition :