

Mr. DAVIN. I know it will be hard to convince my hon. friend, because I have his conduct and the conduct of other hon. gentlemen vividly before my mind, as in another place here they are trying to do everything they can to burk inquiry—

Mr. BRITTON. Not at all correct.

Mr. DAVIN—and in the face of evidence open, palpable, that wrong has been done, they are trying to throw dust in the eyes of Canada, trying to prevent the truth from coming out.

Mr. BRITTON. I ask you, Mr. Chairman, if it is in order for the hon. gentleman to refer—

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) did not refer to the committee. He said: "in another place."

Mr. BRITTON. The hon. gentleman is pretending to state what took place in a committee of this House, though he is incorrectly stating it. He has not the right to refer to what took place in a committee.

Mr. DAVIN. I did not do anything of the kind, and if I thought it worth while to waste any moments or words on my hon. friend, I would have him called to order for using the word "pretend." I did not refer to any committee. I said that we have had before us in another place conduct such as I have described. If the description was not correct, how does the hon. gentleman know that I referred to the committee?

Mr. BRITTON. Then you are stating something you do not know anything about yourself.

Mr. DAVIN. I know very well how the hon. gentleman has fought and wriggled in many a court of justice defending criminals not half as vile as this Preston. I want to put on record the exclamations of horror of the brother of a distinguished Liberal leader in regard to this man Preston. Why, Sir, it is stated now that Mr. Samuel Blake will probably be the leader of the Liberal party in the local House—probably Premier of Ontario. Nevertheless, that hon. gentleman in the face of the iniquities respecting which this man Preston was the chief hero, lifted up his hands in holy horror and declared, as I remember it, that these people should be decapitated or something to that effect. Hon. Samuel Blake, ex-Vice-Chancellor, wants to have a block set up on Parliament hill and from that block he wishes to see roll the heads of such men as Preston. This man Preston who, according to his own profession is contriving to crush the life out of the electorate of Canada—this man, his hands reeking from this crime, the man the Minister of the Interior makes a position for with \$3,000 a year to gallivant through Europe. And he must have his interpreter with him. I suppose he has a courier also.

He probably not only travels with the machine but has a trumpeter to go before him and herald his approach. This is the great man; this is he who has done such great things for the Liberal party in Ontario; way for the author of the machine! In his letter he paints his own character. I suppose the hon. Minister could tell what is meant by hugging the machine.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) evidently knows more about it than I do.

Mr. DAVIN. No, no, it is not my character to hug machines. The hon. gentleman is, I am afraid, closer to the machine than I am when he can make a position for him and give him \$3,000 a year to go about here and there. I suppose he is paid his expenses. How much is he allowed for expenses?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. His actual outlay.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, his actual outlay on the continent of Europe, stopping at the Grand Hotel in Paris, going to Berlin, going to Vienna, having an interpreter at each place—why, his expenses must be very great, I suppose they will be \$3,000 a year more. But that is not all. While travelling about he will live on the fat of the land, he will have everything that heart could wish, and he can lay by \$3,000 a year. And what won't he do for the people of Canada? He would call on this agent, and that agent. We can fancy him calling on his brother Devlin, in Dublin, and saying: Hello, Devlin, how have you been? And Devlin would say: Hail Preston, great creator of the machine, great fighter for the Liberal party of Ontario! Thou art a great man for what thou didst accomplish for that great party in the province of Ontario. Welcome to my bureau. And down they would sit, and you can fancy the delight which Mr. Devlin, who is a strong party man, would listen to the stories of political corruption which this man Preston could tell. Now I want to give the opinion of an ex-judge, the opinion of probably one of the ablest men in the Liberal party.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Where is it found?

Mr. DAVIN. It is printed in the "Montreal Daily Star."

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Does my hon. friend think it very likely that he would give that interview to the "Montreal Star"?

Mr. DAVIN. I think it appeared originally in one of the Toronto papers. Now this is what Mr. Blake says:

If I were in office, Preston's head, as well as all others who took part in those disgraceful acts, would fall just as quickly as I could write down their names on paper.