

eastern Canada in late months. The facts speak for themselves.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): I want to ask my right hon. friend to withdraw that statement. It is wholly and absolutely untrue in every way.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Which statement?

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): The statement that myself or myself in consort with anybody else, induced a Labour candidate to enter the field in North Cape Breton.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I venture to say the hand of the hon. gentleman was not far away.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): I say that statement is absolutely untrue and I insist that my right hon. friend withdraw it.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am content to let the evidence speak for itself and to accept the statement of the hon. member.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): I invoke the rule of the House in regard to my right hon. friend.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the right hon. member has accepted the denial of the hon. member.

Mr. BUREAU: Qualified acceptance! That is not the rule.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. member, however, took some part in that campaign.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): So did the right hon. member.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, I did, and I am prepared to stand by every sentence I uttered. If the hon. gentleman ever succeeds in consort with his fellows in reducing a majority by some twenty-seven hundred, perhaps he will not be ashamed of taking part in a campaign.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): My right hon. friend's part in the campaign reflected no honour nor glory on him, either in the utterances or the results.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is fortunate for my hon. friend that he speaks after me. I would be glad if he spoke before me; I would make sure that he did not misrepresent me. I will stand in this House by every word I uttered, by every appeal I made; and what is more, the hon. gentleman has disavowed assertions that he made, affirmed that he never made

them, although they were taken down by a stenographic reporter.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): And my right hon. friend comes to this House and makes statements which he knows are untrue.

Mr. MEIGHEN: My hon. friend is uneasy and I take his uneasiness as a tribute to his conscience. The people of Canada read the address which the hon. member made. He took care to arrive, just two or three nights before the election. In his address, in order to illustrate and in order to confirm for all time the oft-proclaimed fact that this government has divorced the National Railways from all political influence, and in no wise uses it as an agent for themselves, the hon. gentleman made himself the spokesman of the National Railways to announce a decrease of rates soon to take place.

He made himself, the spokesman of the president of the National Railways when he declared that shortly, upon the return of Sir Henry Thornton, the small differential which the railways had imposed upon goods going to Atlantic ports over those going to Portland would be wiped out by the new National Railways administration. And for that he took great credit to himself. How splendid an illustration of the divorcement of the National Railways from political influence! How proper that a minister of the Crown, two nights before a by election, should be the man to announce a reduction of rates on the National Railways. This is one of the assertions attributable to the hon. member. But there is another.

I had made the statement, in addresses which I had delivered, that in my judgment the government had acted precipitately and had not exhausted all other efforts before hurrying solidiers from the ends of Canada, even from as far as Winnipeg, to over-awe the strikers at Cape Breton; and I stated as well that if the presence of militia were necessary to preserve law and order I would advocate it, as I had always done every time the occasion had arisen in my experience. I declared, however, that I did not believe that on this occasion all other means had been exhausted; and I added by way of illustration that at the strike in Winnipeg, in 1919 a more threatening one, a more difficult situation to handle, the government of the day had got along without sending one soldier at all into the area, and that without importing soldiers the whole matter had been controlled. In order to refute that position, which I had