

reposed confidence in me for so long a time. It was first intimated to me some seven years ago, or thereabout, that a resolution had been formed to provide a house for me by my friends. When I say my friends, I refer to special circumstances. I think I have explained to the House before that when the late leader of the Government, Sir John A. Macdonald, called me to accept a seat in his Cabinet, I did not at all flatter myself that I was selected because of any special ability which I possessed over others who might have been called to fill that position; but I believe my selection was due to special circumstances. A vacancy having occurred in the Cabinet for New Brunswick, and the principle having been established that there should be a representation of Catholics in the Cabinets of our country, I was called in on that ground more than on the ground of any special ability I possessed, to take charge of a department. And when the testimonial of a residence to me was discussed, I took for granted that it was coming from those gentlemen who sympathized with me, and who looked upon me, though I might perhaps unworthily fill the position, as their representative. I had not the slightest objection to accept that token of their esteem and confidence. In accepting that present from them, I had not thought that it could in the slightest degree affect my honour or my standing in this House, or in the country as their representative. Without that testimonial I felt it to be my duty to devote myself to their interests and to promote their interests in every legitimate way I could; and all the testimonials that they might give me, and all the millions of money they might pile up for me, could not strengthen my hands or induce me to do more than I would have done if this testimonial had never been given. I have one more statement to make. When the Government decided to accept this motion on the general principle as laid down by the mover, I think they did perfectly right. I have one thing further to state, to be short, and not to weary the House. I accepted that testimonial in good faith, believing that I had not failed in the obligations I owed to the country or to my constituents. I did not know at the time who the subscribers were. The hon. member for South Oxford, in dealing with this question so far as it affects others, says that they should have known who the subscribers were. Well, the subscription to my testimonial went on for some time. I was not in a position to know who the subscribers were. I was under the impression that the subscriptions were coming from friends of mine whose particular representative I might be considered to be. Less than two years ago the gentleman who managed the legal part of the matter, called my attention to the fact that upon the house which had been presented to me, a balance of \$1,000 remained unpaid; and it was then that I became aware of the contributions which had been sent in, and I arranged for the payment of the balance due on the property in order that the matter might be settled. On that list there are only two or perhaps three names of contractors, principally Irish Catholics. There is the name of at least one firm of distillers in this country; and there are the names of one or more officials who might look for promotion in my department. Now, I propose to meet that in a very satisfactory way, I think, if the hon. gentleman will meet me in a fair spirit.

Mr. COSTIGAN.

I propose to hand to the mover of this resolution that subscription list, which will show every dollar that has been paid in for the purchase of that property; and I will ask him to associate with himself, not a Conservative or a friend of mine, but any two gentlemen he may choose from his own side of the House to go over that list and take the records of my department and examine them at the same time. He will find there, for instance, the name of the firm of Messrs. Gooderham & Worts; all our dealings in the department with them are a matter of record. And if the hon. gentleman finds that there has been any transaction in that department on which a suspicion might be based—I will not ask him to prove a charge or to take evidence to establish a charge; but if he, or the gentlemen associated with him, will, after examination, say that they find a reasonable ground even to suspect that some favour has been shown to Messrs. Gooderham & Worts—though I deny it entirely—then, in that case, and in every other case in which they find any ground for suspicion, I will undertake to refund the money which was subscribed. Not that they could prove any case, because it would be impossible to prove that I was influenced in any improper way; but, if on the face of these facts, as they find them, they can say: Here is a concession made to a man who contributed to that fund, and from which they could draw a conclusion that I was influenced by the fact of that contribution—if they even go only so far as to find the slightest suspicion that I was influenced thereby—I will refund the money to every man affected. I have no more to say than that.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, before you put the motion I desire to say that some time ago the *Hamilton Spectator* stated that I had contributed \$400 to the Langevin testimonial. I would not take this opportunity of denying it—because the *Hamilton Spectator*, on seeing my denial, at once took back the assertion—were it not that the *St. Catharines Standard* still persists in repeating the story promulgated by the *Hamilton Spectator*; and as the hon. Minister of Public Works evidently did not know, nor the country generally, who the subscribers to that testimonial were, I wish to state most distinctly to the House and the country that I never subscribed a single cent to the Langevin testimonial, either directly or indirectly.

Mr. COSTIGAN. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, and with the permission of the House, I wish to add something which I forgot to mention. I covered three points. Some officials, I think—very few—contributed to that fund. I would ask the hon. gentlemen to take the Civil Service list and look very closely through the promotions in my department; and if they find that any officer who contributed to that fund received one dollar in the way of promotion or increase of salary, which might possibly lead to the conclusion that I was influenced by his contribution in giving him that increase or promotion, I am prepared to refund in that case also.

Mr. OUMET. Before this motion is adopted I wish to say a few words, and would preface my remarks by saying that it is very much to be regretted that the practice of the House of Commons in England should not be followed here. I refer to the practice of giving previous notice of important motions such as this, which here are always