

to specify any charges against them. Towards the close of the session Mr. Aylesworth, Minister of Justice, stated in his place in the House (Hansard, 1907, page 6336), that nothing in the land transactions mentioned was in any degree to the discredit of Mr. Bennett. The Minister's remarks applied equally to Mr. Lefurgey, who was in the same position. It may be said also that Mr. Aylesworth, who took upon himself the task of defending the report of the Insurance Commission, found nothing to say in criticism of Mr. Fowler's conduct.

Mr. Foster's statement in regard to the insurance transaction is before the public and is a complete vindication of his conduct.

A CONSPIRACY OF INSINUATIONS.

But notwithstanding the failure of Government members to sustain the indefinite, undeclared and insinuated charges against Mr. Foster, notwithstanding the practical withdrawal of all intimated charges against Mr. Fowler, and the admission that the other two members had done no wrong, the first half of the session was characterized by continual jeers and offensive insinuations of a personal character directed against the members mentioned. These usually came from the back benches, and always from members who would not take the responsibility of rising in their place and making a direct statement. It was plain that Ministers encouraged these attacks, for they were made by members who would not think of offending or disobeying a Minister. It was, in fact, a conspiracy, deliberately organized and regularly operated for the purpose of annoying the Opposition, interfering with its regular work and duty, and making life unpleasant for Conservatives who ventured to criticize the Government.

THE "WOMEN, WINE AND GRAFT" EPISODE.

On the 19th day of February, George W. Fowler member for King's and Albert, New Brunswick, was disussing Mr. Lemieux's Conciliation bill, taking the ground that the Government ought to consider carefully the objections which the railway men had raised against it. In the course of the discussion Mr. Duncan Ross, member for Caribou, intimated that Mr. Fowler might have been poorer "if everybody got a square deal." There had been other insinuations of this kind from the Ministerialists, referring to private affairs of Mr. Fowler. Referring to these Mr. Fowler now said:

"Up to this time I have not referred to private matters; but I want this House and the First Minister and the Government to understand that if matters in connection with my private business are to be discussed in this House, I shall take an opportunity to discuss the private character of Members of this Administration and Members on that side. I want to say to hon. gentlemen opposite that I shall discuss these without fear or favor, that I shall call a spade a spade, and when I speak of the indisposition of an Hon. Minister which keeps him out of this House, I shall tell exactly what it was and how it was brought on. I shall allow no man to make an attack on me or my character without retorting. I shall discuss the character of hon. members opposite, whether they be Ministers or private Members, and their connection with women, wine and graft."