NCE
Y WINS
AT QUEEN'S

Ont., April 24.—The fol-
s were announced by
ical College faculty last
ty prize in anatomy, W.
Vernon, Ont.; faculty
highest marks on second
ations in anatomy, physi-
gy and chemistry, R. A.
pman, N. B.; New York
ciation Sscoralship, $50,
arks in honor,physiology
, F. Boyd, M. A.; faculty
hest percentage of marks
ar examination in mater-
erapeutics and pharmacy,
n, Chipman, N. B.; Dean
larship for highest per-
marks on work of third
Polson, M. A., Kingston;
for best written and
amination in third year
M. Polson, M. A., Kings-
f $25 given by Dr. W. C.
best examination in men-
M. C. McKinnon, Whim-
P. E. I.; medical in medi-
McCann, Perth medal in
A. Marmichael, B. A., Un-

ST. JOHN
BOR BILL
AGREED

inued from page 1.

eeded quite as well as any
cessors in that position.
Maxwell said he desired
attention of the House to
presentations in the St.
of today wherein it was
men who are taxed on
hree hundred dollars have
few friends in the common
none in the Legislature,"
ant Cornish of the Salva-
stated that the action of
ment would have the effect
some three thousand citi-
to the corporation." Such
were very unfair to the
om St. John and misrepre-
r position. The facts were
mmon council of the City
n sent to the Legislature,
ent bill with which not one
f the Legislature had in-
any one particular and all
o give any assistance pos-
rfecting and passing such
bill. Delegates from the
ouncil, from the Board of
n the insurance companies,
the street railway and rep-
tives of the workingmen
e civil servants came to
n and met in committee and
he matters dealt with in the
ay mutually agreeable and
gross misrepresentation to
the workingmen had no
the House on either side.
nt the editor of the Sun
more careful and not so
nt the position taken on
stions by members of the

. John Harbor Bill

ase went into committee of
Mr. Copp in the chair to
bill authorizing the city of
o transfer its harbor prop-
a commission.
r. Maxwell explained that
ad been carefully gone over
ttee and the recorder had
e ammendments there re-
d. It protcted every person
interest in the city of St.
bill was agreed to. Also a
egulate the construction of
in the city of St. John
s agreed to; also a bill relat-
e St. John police force.

. John Police Force.

Mr. Maxwell explained that
simply to provide that ar-
ht be made by policemen
ying information.It had been
r because of an instance
man who would not move
streets was arrested and af-
was able to recover damages
Chief of Police.

The Ferry Boats.

Mr. Hazen said it was also
itions might be dealt with on
boats especially during the
eason when strangers some-
eated disturbances and re-
be taken in charge.

The Chatham Bill.

aclachlan said he had been
by the Town Council of
to have the provision of the
ded to Chatham and he mov-
endment to this effect.
Mr. Hazen suggested that the
for a few days as no notice
given of the amendment re-
o the town of Chatham, so
ere were any objections they
e presented. Bill agreed to
endments.

John Civic Elections.

bill relating to civic elections
ity of St. John, providing for
x of $5 in certain cases and
persons to be qualified to
civic elections must have
axes, then due, paid four-
s before date of election. Bill
o. Also a bill regarding the
g and collecting of taxes.
. A section was added
viding that the exemption
of the act and the clause re-
the $5 poll tax would come
immediately, the balance of
coming in force on October 1st

greed to with amendments and
eral bills were reported.

Withdrew Bill.

Hatheway with the consent of
se, withdrew the bill relating
exemption of certain incomes
xation in the City of St. John
provisions of this bill were
in the Assessment Act al-
assed.
Mr. Hazen introduced a bill to
for a Stipendiary Magistrate
Parish of St. Leonards and
ground of urgency it was read
d time.
Mr. Grimmer laid on the table
asked for by the member for
n (Upham) relating to a lot
granted to Willard Carr.
House adjourned at 5.40.

CONNECTION OF MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS WITH ST. JOHN DREDGING SCANDAL EXPOSED IN PARLIAMENT BY THE MEMBER FOR YORK

The following remarks of O. S. Crocket, M. P., on the motion to refer the charges contained in the Mayes affidavit to a special committee for investigation are taken from Hansard:

Mr. O. S. Crocket (York, N.B.)—Mr. Speaker, I must congratulate the Minister of Public Works upon the theatrical success he has achieved. He has certainly attained to the full limit of affected wrath and righteous indignation. I am bound to say that he won my admiration in that respect. I have heard the hon. gentleman when he was a minister of the Crown in the province of New Brunswick making similar exhibitions upon similar occasions in the New Brunswick Legislature. I have heard him rend the air with rugged denials and with swelling assertions and denunciations such as we have heard from him this afternoon, but, when following some of these occasions in the Legislature of New Brunswick there were investigations under oath, the denials which the hon. gentleman so solemnly made upon the floor of the Legislature were completely dissipated. Now, Mr. Speaker, what was passing through my mind when I was admiring the affected indignation of the Minister of Public Works, and when he was denouncing his alleged traducers as infamous and malicious liars, was, why if he had such a feeling against these traducers, and why if these staeements which he characterized as infamous are really falsehoods, why has he not sought to punish those who have done him such wrong? The Minister of Public Works is a lawyer, and no one knows better than he that if the statements which are contained in that solemn declaration (which has now been spread upon the pages of Hansard, and which is now upon the table of this House) be untrue, he has a remedy to punish Mr. G. S. Mayes; he has a remedy to punish the Hon. J. Douglas Hazen, premier of the province of New Brunswick. If these statements be false, as the minister has claimed, some man is unquestionably

Liable to Prosecution for Periury in the Courts of This Country.

Why, then, I ask you, has not the Minister of Public Works resorted to the remedy which the law affords him and instituted a prosecution for perjury against Mr. Mayes? Why has he not instituted an action for libel against the premier of the province of New Brunswick? The Minister of Public Works, I think, went far afield this afternoon when he made such a violent and wholly unwarranted attac upon the honored premier of that province, and I desire, as a member representing one of the New Brunswick constituencies, to resent that unwarranted attack which was made upon that distinguished citizen of the province. What was the reference which the Minister of Public Works made to the Hon. J. Douglas Hazen? That he deliberately read an affidavit knowing it to be false; that he was a party to an attempt to deceive the electorate of the province with respect to the date that the interview which is spoken of in the affidavit is alleged to have taken place between the Minister of Public Works and Mr. Mayes. I thought that, after the statement which the hon. member for the city of St. John (Mr. Daniel) made in this House yesterday, the Minister of Public Works even would have hesitated before making such an attack upon Hon. Mr. Hazen. The hon. member from St. John city stated clearly and distinctly in this House yesterday afternoon that he attended the political meeting at which this solemn declaration was first read, that

He Was on the Platform on the Occasion

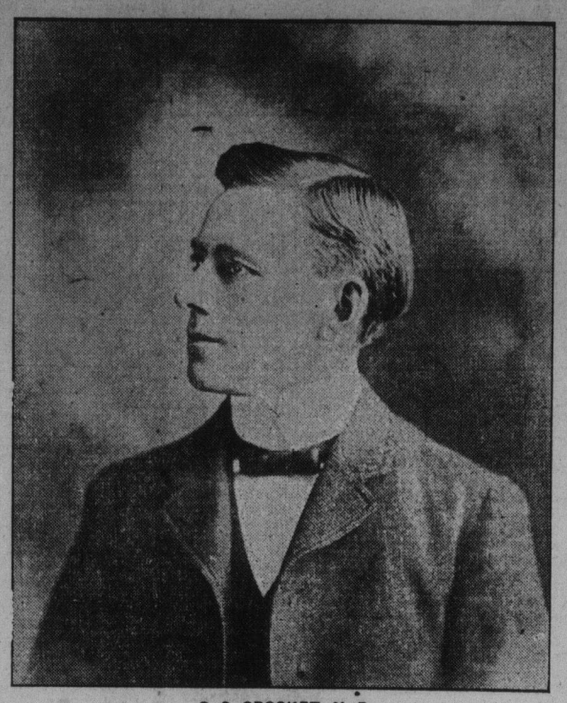
upon which Mr. Hazen was reading this affidavit and that when Mr. Hazen approached the paragraph in which this mistake occurred he hesitated at the figures "1907" that he turned around to Mr. Mayes, that Mr. Mayes then said "1905" and that Mr. Hazen read the affidavit as of 1905. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is one hon. member of this House who would hesitate to accept the statement which was made by the hon. member for St. John yesterday afternoon. And, that being the case, I ask the members of this House if they think the Minister of Public Works did himself any justice or any good this afternoon when he sought to represent Mr. Hazen as being guilty of an attempt to read a false date into an affidavit.

But, Mr. Speaker, I ask you again: Why is it that the Minister of Public Works, if these statements are untrue, if this affidavit is false, if this is the greatest outrage that was ever committed with respect to a public man in the Dominion of Canada, has not, in the past five or six months, taken the action which the statutes of this country enable him to take against Mr. Mayes and Mr. Hazen?

Now, the minister has seen fit to refer to the result of the election in the province of New Brunswick; he has boasted of the result of these elections

As a Sort of Vindication of Himself

with respect to these charges. He said furthermore that he thought the small measure of success fhich was attained by the Conservative party in New Brunswick was largely owing to the unfairness of his opponents in the use they made of this affidavit in the city of St. John. I think I can give this House pretty well the reasons for the return of eleven Liberal candidates from the province of New Brunswick. I think that the minister's friend, Mr. George McAvity, who is the very same gentleman who, the minister dared not deny this afternoon, got away with $35,000 of the money of the people of this country, had as much to do with the result of the elections in the province of New Brunswick as any other cause. Will the minister deny—I do not think he will—that the same Mr. George McAvity, who got away with this plunder from the public treasury, was associated with himself in the purchase



O. S. CROCKET, M. P.

of the St. John Telegraph and the St. John Times? The minister dare not and will not deny that statement because iti s a fact that he was associated with Mr. McAvity in the purchase of these two papers which had been advocating the Conservative cause in that province for some few months before that time. Not only was he associated with Mr. McAvity, but he was associated with Mr. John Moore, another gentleman who has formed a dredging company in New Brunswick and who is obtaining many contracts at exorbitant rates from the Public Works Department. I am not sure but that if the truth were known it would be found that some portion of this $30,900 enabled, at least his friend Mr. McAvity,

To Buy These Papers From the Owners at That Time.

These papers, as I have said, were the only Conservative papers that were being conducted in the city of St. John. The purchase of these papers by the minister and his friend, Mr. McAvity, took away from the Conservative party the only means they had of spreading the issues before the people of New Brunswick. The Liberal party not only had these two papers, but they had two other papers, the St. John Sun and the St. John Star, which had been bought some time previously by other gentlemen who had been very close to the treasury of this Dominion—the Hon. B. F. Pearson, whose name, I think, will be familiar to every member of this House who takes any interest in the public accounts of the Dominion. So that I think the less that the Minister of Public Works says in this House with reference to the causes of the so called Liberal victory in New Brunswick the better for himself. With respect to the election in the city of St. John, it seems to me that if there is one constituency in New Brunswick where this question would have formed an issue and where the verdict of this particular matter would have had some significance, it was in the constituency in which this affidavit was read. What was the result in that constituency? My hon. friend who addressed the House so fairly this afternoon on this question is here tonight to confront the Minister of Public Works notwithstanding all the efforts which that hon. gentleman made to cause his defeat, and notwithstanding the fact that

He Had Not One Single Paper to Espouse His Cause

in the city of St. John, owing to the action of the hon. Minister of Public Works and his friend Mr. McAvity, in buying up the papers which had formerly been advocating the interests of the Conservative party. In that election the minister sought to make a great deal of this very transaction. He appealed to the electors of St. John not only to elect himself, but to elect his colleague, Mr. Pender, my hon. friend's opponent in St. John, and appealed to them upon the ground that if Mr. Pender was not elected with him there would be no vindication with respect to these charges which he alleged were so foully uttered against him. But the electors of St. John did not respond to that appeal. My hon. friend from St. John, as I have said, is here tonight despite these influences. Now, I think that is all that is necessary to say with respect to the result of the election in New Brunswick.

I have heard the minister say it here, and I have heard him say in the Legislature of New Brunswick in the same way: Take the manly and honorable course, if you have any criticism to make, and make a charge. I have heard him use the same expression in the Legislature of New Brunswick. It is an expression I have heard very frequently in this House— so frequently that it has become a veritable chestnut. "Make a formal charge." Does the minister not see that there is to-day on the table of this House

A Specific Charge More Solemnly Made

than could be made by any hon. member speaking from these benches. I venture to say that never in the history of politics in the Dominion has a charge been more solemnly and publicly made, or more widely circulated, than this charge which was made in the city of St. John on the 12th of Ooctober last. It has been circulated broadcast in every newspaper in the Dominion, and was read in the province of New Brunswick at that great meeting, in the hearing of the premier of Ontario. No charge could be more publicly or more specifically made than that which is now on the table of this House. The hon. minister said yesterday that he would welcome the fullest and freest inquiry; why does he not consent to this investigation. That is also a statement I have frequently heard made by him on the floor of the New Brunswick Legislature. But if he would welcome the fullest and freest inquiry, why does he not consent to this investigation What does it matter, so far as his character and reputation are concerned, whether the charge be made by my hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Daniel) or in the shape of the solemn declaration made by Mr. Mayes in that city? The matter is as fully before the people as any proceeding taken in this House could be; and if the hon. gentleman has any regard for his reputation or character he would not split hairs upon the manner in which the charge should be presented.

The speech which he made this afternoon was

Full of Denial and Strong Denunciation of His Alleged Traducers.

But was it not to be expected that the minister would make the denials he did? Is there an hon. member who would suppose for one moment that the minister would not deny the allegations of this solemn declaration? Now, I ask my hon. friend to consider thoughtfully the pretended defence which the Minister of Public Works made this afternoon. Leave out his general denials and his denunciations of the members of the Conservative party and see if he has touched for one moment the gravamen or the gist of the accusations contained in that affidavit. Did he deny the fact, or did he even refer to it at all, that there was an agreement entered into between Mr. Mayes and Mr. McAvity, precisely as alleged in that solemn declaration? No, he did not deny it, because, unfortunately for him, we have in that case the documentary evidence whirh was read this afternoon by my hon. friend from St. John. We have the evidence that Mr. McAvity did not put a dollar into this contract, that he had no pecuniary interest in it or other interest beyond his political pull with the Department of Public Works, and that, because of that political pull, he received an undertaking for Mr. Mayes to pay him five cents per cubic yard on every yard of material of that class dredged in the harbor of St. John, and that under that agreement he received from Mr. McAvity, out of the money he got from the department the enormous sum of $35,933. The Minister of Public Works did not choose to address himself to that aspect of the case at all. Yet, that is the feature of this case which is

The Most Important From the Standpoint of the Electors of This Country.

Under that agreement the public treasury of the Dominion has been defrauded of that sum of money, given to Mr. McAvity as a pure and absolute rake-off in exchange for his influence with the department. Of that there can be no manner of doubt and therefore the minister passed over that phase of the question.

He did, however, attempt to justify the inaction of the government in that connection upon the ground that neither Mr. Mayes nor Mr. McAvity would be liable to an action for the recovery of that money unless there were collusion between the Minister of Public Works and one or other of those gentlemen. I know that the Minister of Public Works is an able lawyer, but I do not think that the proposition he advanced this afternoon in that respect should commend itself either to the lawyers or the laymen of this country. It would seem to me a most remarkable proposition that the only ground upon which an employer can recover back money of which he had been defrauded was that he himself had been in collusion with the parties who had defrauded him. Yet that is the effect of the contention which the minister made this afternoon. It was that the corporation which had given out a contract could not recover from its employee or contractor

Money of Which it Had Been Defrauded.

unless it was in collusion with the party who had committed the fraud. It seems to me that the contention is so utterly absurd that it would not be considered even by some of the hon. gentlemen on the other side.

But my hon. friend from the city of St. John quoted this afternoon our Criminal Code with reference to this question of the liability of Mr. Mayes and Mr. McAvity. I have no doubt myself that this transaction which my hon. friend cited and that this was, in the terms of that section, a corrupt and illegal arrangement between Mr. Mayes and Mr. McAvity. But in addition to the section which my hon. friend quoted there is this other one which bears upon this legal question:

"Sec. 159. Every person convicted of an offence under the last preceding section shall be incapable of contracting with the government, or of holding any contract or office with, from or under it, or of receiving any benefit under any such contract."

Since that is the law—of which there can be no question—then this was an illegal arrangement and consequently absolutely void, and Mr. Mayes was not entitled to receive from the Dept. of Public Works any portion of that money. So that, speaking as a lawyer, it seems to me that there can be absolutely no question as to this phase of the controversy. There can be no question that that amount of money

Was Fraudulently Obtained by Mr. McAvity

out of this contract and that the Department of Public Works and the treasury of this country have been to that extent defrauded. This government has not seen fit down to the present to take any action. I have already pointed out that the Minister of Public Works has not seen fit to take any steps to prosecute Mr. Mayes for that perjury which the hon. gentleman says he committed when he swore to that affidavit, and that he has not ventured to prosecute the premier of New Brunswick for the alleged libel he committed when he read and published that affidavit in the city of St. John. I point out further that neither the Public Works Department nor the Justice Department has not taken (nor does either intend to take) any action for recovery of this money of which the treasury has been defrauded. Now, I seriously ask the members of this House to consider if the conduct of the minister (Mr. Pugsley) is consistent with the conduct of a man woh is wholly innocent of these such a vile slander as he alleges has been—

Mr. Pugsley—Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend (Mr. Crocket) misunderstands charges. If any man against whom me entirely. I said that the slander was with regard to the fact that I had received these moneys while I was Minister of Public Works. That is the slander which was uttered in St. John, that is the slander which was sent broadcast throughout Canada. I do not see where there is any charge in the affidavit as now read, making the date 1905, which one could complain about. There is not very much of a charge in it so far as I am concerned.

$2,000 Paid to Pugsley.

Mr. Crocket—I must express astonishment that a gentleman who occupies the high position of Minister of Public Works in this country should state in his place in the parlament of Canada that he does not see any serious charge in the affidavit read here this afternoon with respect to the interview which Mr. Mayes alleges took place between him and the present minister on Oct. 15, 1905. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Pugsley) forget—do members of this House forget?—that in that paragraph the present Minister of Public Works is charged with having asked of Mr. Mayes and having received from him $2,000 in connection with this work as a rake-off?

Mr. Pugsley—I did not say that.

Mr. Crocket—Does the minister say that the statement does not mean that?

Mr. Pugsley—I do not take it so.

Mr. Crocket—(Reading):

"Mr. Mayes, I am in need of money and it would be nice if you could help me." I said, "Dr., what for? You know that I have paid you some $1,300 in my second case against Connolly which you have in a way offered to pay back, because you have said that Mr. Emmerson was so slow in bringing up the matter and I have not the funds. I am carrying a big back load and am paying large amounts to the Bank of Montreal for overdraws." Just then Mr. George McAvity came in and Dr. Pugsley said that Mr. Mayes' business was getting along so well that a little money would be very acceptable. I again stated that I was carrying a big back load, and could not see why Dr. Pugsley should ask me for money. I said, "What do you want it for, a loan?" "Well," said Dr. Pugsley, "you see it will be nice to have someone who could do something for you while in Ottawa, there was always something to be done, and if I could not give him a cheque that I could give him a note for three or four months." I asked how much, and he said, "Oh, about $2,500 or $3,000." I said, "This is too much, but I suppose I will let you have a note for four months for $2,000." Dr. Pugsley then made the note out and I signed it. He said he felt sure that he would give me good return for it or pay it back.

Does the minister say that the correction of this date

Takes All Offence From That Paragraph.

Was he not Attorney General of the province of New Brunswick at that time, a minister of the Crown? And I ask him if he regards it as creditable to himself or to any other citizen of this country to have it said of him that he spoke to a contractor under the Public Works Department of this country, to promise to use his influence to help that contract, and to ask and receive from him the sum of $2,000? If the Minister of Public Workh does not regard that as a serious accusation, I am satisfied he differs very markedly from the great majority of right thinking people in this country. That is an offence under the laws of Canada whether the hon. gentleman was Minister of Public Works or not. The Minister of Public Works waxes very indignant about this mistake in the date, and, as I pointed out, has accused the leader of the Conservative party in New Brunswick of deliberately reading that "1907" for the purpose of making a charge against him as Minister of Public Works. Now, I want to put this to the Minister of Public Works: If the fact is, as he alleged it this afternoon to be, that this note for $2,000 was received by him for professional services, what difference does it make if it was in 1905 or 1907? The question is not when the note was paid; the question is what was it paid for? As to that, there is a serious conflict between the Minister of Public Works' statement made on the floor of this House and the statement made under oath by Mr. Mayes subjecting himself to prosecution for perjury

If the Truth of That Statement Cannot be Established.

it the fact is as the minister states why should he object for a moment to having the matter investigated? Does he object to going before a committee of this House and making a statement under oath? If the facts are as alleged, the falsity of the statement can be determined in ten minutes by an examination of the Minister of Public Works before a select committee of this House. He would only have to produce his books, and if the case is, as he alleged, that the money was paid for professional services, his books will show it. That is if he keeps books, because it has been found by a commission which has been investigating certain matters in the province of New Brunswick——

Mr. Pugsley—I call the hon. gentleman (Mr. Crocket) to order. I think my hon. friend is out of order in attempting to refer to what took place in another place reflecting upon myself. At the proper time I shall be ready to answer anything in regard to it.

Mr. Crocket—That is very pleasantly put—under the circumstances. But, surely, when I am discussing this question I can use any illustration which occurs to me. I referred to that matter to show that if the statement of the minister on the floor of this House this afternoon, that this $2,000 was for professional services, represents the facts, and if he went before a select committee the matter could be settled in ten minutes by the production of his books,

If He Had Books;

and I was about to remark that if he had not books, as it seems that the loan company of which he was the whole thing——

Mr. Pugsley—Order. I really think my hon. friend (Mr. Crocket) ought not to transgress the rules. We have had so much of this that even my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster), who will stand a good deal and give a good deal, had to object. I hope that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Crocket) will not persist.

Mr. Foster—That is perfectly in order.

Mr. Pugsley—No.

Mr. Sproule—What is the point of order?

Mr. Pugsley—The hon. gentleman has no right in this debate to refer to a loan company with which he says I am connected and its books. It is entirely irrelevant to this discussion. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) will remember that the same question touched him the other day with regard to something which indirectly might reflect upon him—

Mr. Crocket—Surely, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Pugsley) does not think there is anything offensive in that. If the hon. gentleman happens not to keep books, even when he conducts a large loan company, he should not consider it offensive to have that fact pointed out.

So much, Mr. Speaker, for the paragraph in this affidavit with reference to the note. But does the hon. gentleman say that that is all there was in the affidavit of which he had reason to complain? From the interjection which he made a few moments ago, I assumed that when this date was corrected there was nothing in the affidavit with which he could find fault, or which would warrant him in taking proceedings against Mr. Mayes and Mr. Hazen. But is that a fact? Why, my hon. friend from St. John has placed the whole affidavit upon the Hansard, and we find that in addition to that charge there is a specific charge that the Minister of Public Works, as minister, was cognizant of this corrupt agreement with Mr. McAvity, and that he

Sought to Hold Mr. Mayes Up in the Interest of His Friend McAvity.

I ask the Minister of Public Works if he attaches no importance to that accusation? Silence, I suppose, Mr. Speaker, gives consent——

Mr. Pugsley—Not necessarily.

Mr. Crocket—And that he attaches no importance to such a serious accusation as that. Yet he would have the members of this House believe that because a typewriter's error had been corrected in the previous paragraph, which did not alter the gravity of the accusation with respect to his character as a public man, that was a reason why there was no necessity for taking these proceedings. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that will go down with even hon. gentlemen on the other side of this House, and I can assure you that it will not go down with the people of New Brunswick. Now, I do not intend to follow the hon. gentleman with respect to the correspondence which he has read this evening. He read that, I suppose, for the purpose of rebutting—so far as it would rebut—the statement of Mr. Mayes with reference to his being held up. But I would point out this fact: The minister claimed that he had given Mr. Mayes no favors and he read correspondence which began, I think, some time in the summer of 1908, to bear out that contention. The Minister of Public Works is aware, I presume, that there was a break between Mr. Mayes and his friend McAvity during the summer of last year. The Maritime Dredging Company, with the minister's friend, Mr. John E. Moore, had come upon the ground at that time, and there was not so much anxiety then

To Promote the Interests of Mr. Mayes

as there was to promote the interests of the Maritime Dredging Company, and after that, it is true, Mr. Mayes was turned down by the Minister of Public Works. I think, Mr. Speaker, if there was an investigation there might be some very interesting disclosures in reference to that feature of the case.

Now, there was one thing that struck me as tending strongly to corroborate the statement of Mr. Mayes, and that was the letter read by my hon. friend from St. John, dated, I think, the 22nd August, in which he put it up to the minister, in a letter addressed to him as minister, that he had been endeavoring to hold him up in the interest of Mr. McAvity. Now, I ask if it is reasonable to suppose, if such was not the case, that Mr. Mayes would address a letter to the Minister of Public Works. It seems to me that that letter which was read by my hon. friend had more significance with respect to this matter than any correspondence which the minister brought down referring to the negotiations after the break had occurred between Mayes and McAvity. Then I find in analyzing the minister's speech that he devoted a great part of it to an attempt to vindicate the Hon. Mr. Hyman. Why, intersts of the Conservative party are concerned, I think I can say to the Prime Minister that they will be better served by refusing the investigation and allowing these charges to hang over the Minister of Public Works and the cabinet. But there are more than party interests to be considered in this affair. I think the public interests are those which should determine an issue of this kind. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman and the members of this government ought to have some regard for the good name and the honor of their administration, and they ought to have some regard for public morality in the Dominion of Canada. I ask you, sir, to consider if it tends to promote public or political morality in this country or morality of any kind, to allow such grave charges as those which are now upon the table of the House to remain uninvestigated, following the remark- Mr. Speaker, there are no allegations in this affidavit affecting the character or the conduct of the former Minister of Public Works. I thought it would have been better for the minister

To Have Devoted a Little More Attention to Those Charges Which Relate to Himself

than to attempt to defend Mr. Hyman from charges which have never been made against him.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to follow this subject further; but I do wish to express my desire and my strong opinion that it is the duty of the Prime Minister to see that an investigation is held. So far as the able and extraordinary silence or inaction of the minister who has complained so indignantly concerning them.

My hon. friend from St. John mentioned two cases which it seems to me are analogous to the case now before the House. He referred to the charges which were made by Mr. Hodgins against the Transcontinental Railway Commissioners. In that case what was the conduct of the chairman of the Transcontinental Railway Commission? Was he content to sit down, as the Minister of Public Works has done,

Without Demanding an Investigation

into these charges? No; in that case the chairman of the Trancontinental Railway Commission at once communicated the charges to the leader of the House and caused them to be laid on the table, and the Prime Minister felt it to be his duty to have them investigated in order that their truth or falsity might be determined. As pointed out by my hon. friend, that was a case not nearly so strong nor so grave as the case now before the House, for the reason that the charges of Mr. Hodgins were contained in an unsworn letter published in a newspaper in British Columbia. They were not attested under oath; there was not that solemnity about them, and, furthermore, they did not relate to the conduct of a minister of the Crown, but to an appointee or appointees of the government. Yet in that case the Prime Minister felt it to be his duty to cause an investigation of those charges to be made. I ask him to consider if that case can be distinguished from the case that is now before the House, and if he felt it his duty in those circumstances to cause an investigation,how can he justify himself in taking no notice of these charges, charges made under oath, made in the most public and emphatic manner that a charge has ever been made against a minister of the Crown in this country.

Another Illustration.

My hon. friend from St. John gave another illustration; it is one that I take no pleasure in referring to, and I refer to it simply as a precedent in matters of this kind. Almost precisely two years ago there was an unfortunate publication in a newspaper published in the province of New Brunswick which reflected on the character of a minister of the crown, not in his public capacity, not in connection with the administration of his department, but in his capacity as a private citizen of this country. What was the action of the Prime Minister then? The predecessor, as the representative of New Brunswick in the cabinet, of the Minister of Public Works—and, by the way, the Minister of Public Works acted as that gentleman's counsel in that matter—made denials of the accusations brought against him. In that case a newspaper article was the sole foundation of the proceedings which the Prime Minister felt called upon to take. The matter came before this House, and the hon. gentleman who was involved in that case rose and in the most emphatic manner possible denied the truth of the charges made against him. Hon. gentlemen opposite applauded just as they applauded this afternoon

The Denials of the Minister.

What was the action of the Prime Minister? What do the records show? That in accepting the hon. gentleman's resignation from his cabinet he stated: You can afford to ignore vague insinuations and innuendoes, but specific charges you do well to meet as soon as uttered. That was the opinion of the Prime Minister in reference to a matter which did not affect the administration of a department of this government. If that was the Prime Minister's opinion upon that subject, what has he to say today? Would not those words have been very appropriately applied to his Minister of Public Works? Was it not a specific charge? As I have said, no more specific charge was ever made with greater detail, than the charge which is contained in that affidavit. It was uttered on the 12th

Continued on page 4.

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