

'Times,' issued every Friday—unlucky day—by the Boundary Creek Printing and Publishing Company, of which the president is one Duncan Ross. I presume this is the gentleman who figures in this House as member for Yale-Cariboo. This friend of mine who saw this advertisement somewhere, picked up the financial report, 'Bradstreet's,' and he looked up this company with the high sounding name of the Boundary Creek 'Times' Publishing Company, and he found it had neither financial standing, nor rating nor credit. But, Sir, we found last session that this gentleman was very active in support of certain legislation that was before this House in connection with a railway out in the province of British Columbia; and we found that after that Bill had successfully gone through parliament the hon. gentleman wanted to enjoy a well-earned vacation and have a rest from his labours, and so he hied him down to Old Orchard to enjoy himself at that fashionable seaside resort. Now, Sir, if we are inclined to accept the rumours that are flying about the country, for facts—which of course we are not—we might say that perhaps he was enjoying the appreciation which Mr. Hill felt for the labours of the hon. gentleman in connection with that Bill, and that he was enabled thus to disport himself in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. But, Sir, we do not believe anything of that sort, we leave that sort of thing to the hon. gentlemen upon the other side of the House.

Now I do not propose to confine my attention with respect to this matter to what are only insignificant and diminutive joints in the tail of the Liberal party in this House—the hon. gentleman from Yale-Cariboo and the hon. gentleman from Three Rivers. I propose to address a few remarks to the great head of the party, the hon. Prime Minister himself. This gentleman, Sir, I hold responsible for the lowering of the tone of discussion in this House. This gentleman, Sir, should be the custodian of the honour of this House. This is the gentleman, I say, who should be held responsible for what takes place in this House. This is the gentleman who, if he had simply held up his hand, so much has he his supporters in subjection, would have stopped all that campaign of slander and vilification.

But, Sir, he did not do it. No, no. He was placid and quiescent while this was going on, while private members of this House were being dragged into this discussion and while efforts were being made by the gentleman with the muck rake to try and make insinuations and innuendoes against my hon. friend from North Toronto. The right hon. gentleman sat there quiet and placid. He did more. He encouraged and incited these hon. gentlemen to the course they were adopting and so much did he appreciate the work that they were

accomplishing that when they were through he went over and congratulated them. Why is this? I can tell you why. The right hon. gentleman, Sir, is drunken with the insolence of power. He has been so flattered, so fulsomely flattered by the slavish adulation of his supporters and his servile press that he thinks that the people should only speak of and to him with bowed heads and bated breath, and that if any hon. gentleman on this side of the House, in pursuance of his duty as a representative of the people, thinks it is in the public interest that the acts of the right hon. gentleman and of his ministers should be criticised he calls upon his henchmen on the rear benches to smother them in an ocean of slander and vituperation. That is the course the right hon. gentleman has seen fit to adopt. Instead of endeavouring in every way in his power—and he should have great power along that line—to incite a high tone of discussion, a tone of discussion that would make the representatives of this splendid young nation worthy of the positions which they occupy, what does he do? He encourages his supporters to follow a line of discussion which is only fitted for pot house politicians in the tap room of some village ale house. If we had a mind to follow the right hon. gentleman along that line I think we might have something to say about hon. members on the other side of the House, about their private relations and private character. But we scorn to do that. However, I would say to hon. gentlemen opposite and the right hon. Prime Minister himself that they will find that if vilification of that kind is continued some amusing, some interesting, some spicy and sensational things could be said about hon. gentleman on the other side of the House from the Prime Minister down to the most insignificant back bencher. The right hon. gentleman has been spoken of as what? Why he has been lauded as an English gentleman of the old school combined with the French of the best era of France. That is the sort of slavish laudation which has been indulged in by the right hon. Prime Minister's supporters and servile press. They have tried thus laboriously to build up a reputation for the right hon. gentleman, but it has crumbled into ruins just as the tower named after him across the square now lies crumbled into ruins, exposing its nakedness and rottenness to the gaze of the wondering passer-by. Let me say to the right hon. gentleman that the day of hero worship has gone by. This is an iconoclastic age. We do not reverence little tin gods on this side of the House, even though they be on wheels.

Now, Sir, I think I have sufficiently paid my respects to the right hon. gentleman and his friends in connection with these personal matters and we shall come down to a brief—a very brief—consideration of this contract. I am not going to emulate the example of my hon. friend