

I have achieved in this short time. I was at that time elected Mayor of Ottawa for three successive years; I conducted the business of the city during that period without a single charge against me of dereliction of duty or of profiting by the office. I went in a poor man and came out a poor man, and should I continue in Parliament, the probability is that I will leave it as poor a man as I entered. When I resigned office, and when my record was before the people of this city, Conservatives and Reformers alike—among the latter many office bearers of the Reform Association and a great many others—united in passing a resolution placing on record the fact that they had the utmost confidence in my integrity. I say that if anyone doubts my position in the city of Ottawa, or the confidence which the people have in me, let him meet me in a contest here where I am known, and he will find that I have friends among all parties who know that I am not the man that I have been painted by hon. gentlemen opposite—a man who for his personal aggrandisement would sacrifice his honor and violate the sacred pledge he made when he became a member of this House. How willing are those who attack me to forget all the misdoings, all the misconduct, of their own friends. When they were in power they found no fault with their own friends for using their public position for individual purposes; they could do what they pleased, they could do wrong in any and every direction, and it was all proper, and they were all perfect. They have one code of political morality when they are in Opposition and another code when they are in power. I do not wish to indulge in recrimination, but I ask hon. gentlemen to take a fair and dispassionate view of this matter. I say it is most unfair to pursue any man as I have been pursued. For these attacks have not only injured me personally, but they have injured me in my business; they have affected my credit seriously. I ask these hon. gentlemen to place themselves in my position, to hold the mirror to themselves, and then I ask them how they would feel if they had been treated as I have been. I say it ill becomes men who have occupied high positions in the councils of the nation, who occupy high positions in the councils of their own party, to attempt to injure a man who has only been in Parliament but a few months, and who is still but a young man in public life. I rose simply for the purpose of making these explanations, and I now repeat with the same solemnity as though I were making them on oath, that so far as the Government is concerned, I never asked them to put an item in the Estimates for my personal advantage, and that since becoming a member of this House I never asked Mr. Whitehead to pay these acceptances, and I made up my mind when I entered Parliament, that I would never ask any friend of mine to disgrace himself by voting for or supporting any matter on the ground that it would be to my personal interest or profit.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. As the hon. gentleman has referred to me, I will only say that he never spoke or wrote to me, or had anything to do with me respecting the item in the Estimates to which reference has been made. Moreover, I would say that originally at the time of these transactions, he never approached me, nor did Mr. Whitehead approach me, directly or indirectly, respecting the negotiations, arrangements, or matters of account between them, and he never asked from me anything connected with Mr. Whitehead.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman having referred to me in relation to this matter, it is only due to him that I should state the fact, that shortly after my taking the position of Minister of Public Works, Mr. Whitehead informed me that Mr. Mackintosh was acting as his agent in the city of Ottawa, and requested me to make any communications for him in his absence, through Mr. Mackintosh. It was not an unusual thing—in fact it was the usual rule—for contractors who were carrying on large works somewhat

remote from the city, to name some person in the city as their agent, to transact business with the Department from time to time, and to make any arrangements they might desire to make which they could not make in person. Mr. Mackintosh called upon me, and stated that he was acting as agent for Mr. Whitehead, and that he hoped that as Mr. Whitehead had a heavy and arduous undertaking on his hands he would receive every possible consideration from the Government. I told him at once that every contractor received all the consideration from the Government that the course he pursued in relation to his contract entitled him to. I say unhesitatingly, in the presence of this House, that Mr. Mackintosh never uttered a word to me in reference to Mr. Whitehead's contract that I should not be perfectly willing should be overheard by the leader of the Opposition himself; and that he never approached me improperly in behalf of any claim of Mr. Whitehead's in any particular whatever. I may say further, that Mr. Whitehead during the period he was carrying on that contract never received any consideration whatever except the same consideration that the Government accords to every person who has a contract with them. As I have already stated, my predecessor, before I came in, assisted Mr. Whitehead in performing his contract. I do not say he favored him, though it might be so regarded, because they were outside the terms of the contract, though in pursuance of the invariable practice of the Department to give all reasonable and proper assistance to contractors that could be given them in order to carry out their contracts. From time to time the money deposit for security is released in proportion to the advanced condition of the works, and in case of difficulties arising advances are made on the plant. This is not an unusual thing. This remission or release of the deposit money was made by my predecessor, as it was by myself, as were these advances on plant, in order to strengthen Mr. Whitehead's hands in carrying on this work, involving extraordinary difficulties, before any return could be received by the contract. My predecessor considered as I did, that in doing all we could reasonably and properly do in that respect we were not consulting Mr. Whitehead's interest, but the public interest. So far as Mr. Mackintosh is concerned the moment the statement was made in the *Globe* newspaper that parties were obtaining large sums of money from Mr. Whitehead under the delusive idea that they could assist in promoting his interests with the Government, I said to him that if he was giving any person a single dollar of his money under the impression that it would assist him with the Government, he was throwing it away, and he had better keep it to himself. I repeat that so far as that contract was concerned there never was any communication between Mr. Whitehead and myself or through Mr. Mackintosh that I would not be glad that the hon. leader of the Opposition should have perfect information upon. With reference to this item in the Estimates from the time the Government took that work out of Mr. Whitehead's hands down to the day before yesterday, Mr. Mackintosh never exchanged a remark with me personally or in writing—never made any communication to me in reference to Mr. Whitehead's affairs until he spoke to me regarding what had taken place in the House and his intention of taking notice of it in his place in Parliament. It is due to Mr. Mackintosh that I should make this statement.

#### SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAYS.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider a certain proposed resolution (May 17th) to grant certain subsidies to railway companies.

Motion agreed to; and the House resolved itself into Committee.