

party man as to condone any act, however outrageous it might be, if committed by his own party. This trait in his character was most conspicuous on the occasion of the passing of the Rebellion Losses Bill, and burning of the Parliament Buildings, in Montreal, in 1849. It is matter of history that, on account of giving his sanction to that Bill, Lord Elgin was mobbed and hooted by a mob in Montreal—something more offensive than sugar balls was thrown at him while returning in his carriage, from the Parliament House after assenting to the Bill, and the Parliament Buildings set on fire and burned, by persons who were said to be supporters of the Opposition in Parliament, of which Opposition Mr. Wilson was a member.

After the burning of the Parliament Buildings, and the assembling of the members in another place, the conduct of the incendiaries was subjected to much Parliamentary hostile criticism. Some of the members of the Opposition, without justifying, sought to excuse the act. This gave an opportunity to Mr. Wilson to express his views, which he did in an independent, non-party, patriotic way: he condemned the burning of the Parliament Buildings as most fiendish, and claimed that every member of Parliament, no matter of what party, should condemn such lawlessness: as a Conservative, he repudiated the idea that his party should be held responsible for the acts of misguided men; that there was not only no justice in, but no excuse for such conduct.

The mob riots in Montreal, on the occasion of the passing of the Rebellion Losses Bill, nearly equalled, and in some respects eclipsed, the Lord George Gordon Riots, in London and Westminster, on the occasion of the passage of the Catholic Relief Bill. The mob on that occasion did not burn the Houses of Parliament, though they did burn the house of Lord Mansfield, in Bloomsbury Square.

Mr. Wilson was a countryman of Lord Mansfield, and, following the example of the noble Lord, he