

disease and that he was not really sick. I believe that idea has been dispelled and that it is no longer entertained by anybody. I believe that everybody knows that when Mr. Hyman left the House he was in very bad health and was a very sick man indeed. But that was not the only rumor. The atmosphere was thick with rumors, and last fall, about September or October, a certain rumor came to me and I spoke to a mutual friend who is now in this House and hears my words, and I said to him: I have been a friend of Hyman for many years; you are still more a friend of his than I am; you are more intimate with him than I am; I have heard this and you have heard it also. Go to him and tell him he must let me know what truth there is in this. That rumor was in connection with a certain person. My friend went to Mr. Hyman and Mr. Hyman sent me word that there was not a word of truth in that rumor. I have to take the House and the country into my confidence.

When I had Mr. Hyman's own word about the matter, then, when he offered me his resignation for reasons with which the House is familiar, I concluded that I would not accept his resignation.

#### WOULD IMITATE GLADSTONE.

The Premier went on to refer to Mr. Bourassa's statement "that Ministers of the Crown have gone into hotels with women of ill-repute." He held that Mr. Bourassa should not have mentioned these rumours unless he was able to bring forward proof of them. Sir Wilfrid added:

The House of Commons can investigate charges of corruption in a public man, but I never yet knew that the House of Commons in England or in this country made itself a police court to investigate charges of this character. The hon. gentleman, however, has taken it upon himself to bring this matter to the attention of the House, and, teaching me my duty, he has given me the example of Mr. Gladstone in the case of Sir Charles Dilke, and I suppose it was the same in the case of Mr. Charles Parnell. It is true that on a certain occasion Mr. Gladstone advised the friends of Parnell to compel him to withdraw from parliamentary life, but when was this? It was when the offences of Parnell had become public; when they were the subject of a judgment of a court; it was at a time when his offences were no longer a private affair, but had become a public scandal. Well, sir, if there was anything of that kind against a friend or colleague of mine, it would be my duty to do as Mr. Gladstone did, but am I to be told that I must make myself a detective, to go about looking for private offences in order to take action on them? Sir, if a matter of that kind came to my notice I would do as I did when I heard Mr. Hyman's name mentioned in connection with certain matters.

Sir Wilfrid protested against establishing what he called "an inquisition." He called upon Mr. Bourassa to formulate his charges and they would be investigated, but complained strongly against the attempt of the independent Liberal member to bring about the inquiry proposed.

#### MR. BORDEN ON INQUISITIONS.

The leader of the Opposition approached the issue in an altogether different spirit. While he thought that Mr. Bourassa's motion could more properly be introduced as a question of privilege, and while the form and language were not exactly such as Mr. Borden himself would have recommended, the Opposition leader was not disposed to allow technical and verbal questions to turn his attention from the main purpose. In a speech of less than a quarter of an hour Mr. Borden made his own position clear. He reminded Sir Wilfrid Laurier that while the Government now objected to inquisition, it had, in the insurance inquiry, established and carried on an inquisition of the most arbitrary type into the public and private business