

make such statements without first having seen the proof. Sir Lomer Gouin had very good reason to be careful. He had been in politics a long time and he has had associated with him in politics gentlemen who came to grief by not taking great care. I need not recall an incident. It is fresh in the recollection of the honourable gentlemen opposite.

I can imagine a room in the city of Montreal; Mr. Howard Kelley coming in; Sir Lomer Gouin there too; the handing over of the paper; and then a careful search under the table to see that there was no dictaphone. The dictaphone had been a deadly device on a former occasion and had caught some person.

Then, after Sir Lomer Gouin got that letter, if he did get it, and was assured that it was genuine, he went upon the public platform. Now, mark you—and I want to accentuate this fact; you may read the correspondence right through. It shows that there had been discussed the question of the retirement of two gentlemen who were Vice-Presidents of the road. What is the statement that was made by Sir Lomer Gouin? Were there any other letters that were shown except this one to him? I take it that this was the only letter he saw. When Sir Lomer Gouin, having seen this letter, if he did see it, or having been assured that it was in existence, went on the public platform, he received an ovation. He warned the electors against the stratagems of the Conservatives, who, once elected, "will take away from us our railway shop and management, thus depriving at least sixty thousand of our workmen of employment, who would be compelled to exile themselves." The Minister of Justice, because he has been shown a letter—if he has been shown a letter—stating that a couple of officials were going to be retired, goes on the platform and makes that statement which has no basis in fact! That is the way elections are won by the Minister of Justice of Canada! I recall that when I was very young, in politics at all events, there was a story told of a celebrated Minister of Justice being elected in Jacques Cartier county with a ballot box that had a false bottom in it. It is an old story, but it is true. However, he may have been a doughty Minister of Justice, and I would absolve him from the suspicion of having ever made the design of that mechanism. He may have been quite guiltless of it. But the present Minister of Justice, Sir Lomer

Hon. Mr. BENNETT.

Gouin, is responsible for the statement he made, and it is a shame and a disgrace to have as Minister of Justice a man who will make what he knows is a misstatement of fact on a public platform in order to delude people and obtain their votes. Worse than that, the statements coming from him in his high position were repeated by the innocent and the unwary. Those innocents accepted the statement on the authority of Sir Lomer Gouin. There was a Mr. Archambault, a member of the House of Commons of Canada, who had seen "letters containing the dismissals of railway men, including a number of senior officials." I cannot believe that Mr. Kelley, or whoever had possession of that letter, was so indiscreet as to show it to Mr. Archambault. But think of the innocent gentlemen who were deluded by the fact that Sir Lomer Gouin, an ex-Prime Minister of the province of Quebec, had made the statement.

Let me give you another statement. "He took up the removal of the shops to Toronto"—went Sir Lomer Gouin one better, told them even where the shops were going to be located. "This was more than the people would stand for." And who do you think made that statement? The honourable Senator from De Lanaudière (Hon. Mr. Casgrain). May I ask the honourable gentleman if he has seen Mr. Kelley's letter?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: No, I did not see the letter. What is the honourable gentleman quoting from?

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: The Montreal Star.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I said that?

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Let us see.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: It will be found on page 11 of the Montreal Star of December the 5th.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: The honourable gentleman (Hon. Mr. Casgrain) said worse than that.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Oh, probably.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps my honourable friend was as fortunate as Mr. Archambault in being taken into the confidence of Mr. Kelley. Did he see Sir Joseph's letter?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: No.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: No? He relied, I have no doubt, on the assurance of the