

of newspaper assertions directly attacking the honour of a fellow-member and his fitness to sit in this House. I understood you to rule, Sir, and your ruling was certainly in consonance with all the rulings I have ever heard in this House—and I have sat here more years than the leader of the Opposition, or his first lieutenant, who spoke of their long experience in the House. Sir, your ruling was, that any such statements attacking the honour of a fellow-member, should be made as a question of privilege to secure an investigation into these statements, and that notice of such motion should be given to the House and to the member concerned. I do not think there is any room for dispute as to the correctness of that ruling. That has been always the practice of this House. We all know, that the quotation of newspaper gossip at great length, attacking an individual member's character, has never been allowed in this House, unless it were to be followed up by a motion for inquiry, and that it never has been allowed without notice to the House and to the member attacked. The attempt to make it appear as a kindness to the Government, does not affect the point of order. Those hon. gentlemen who have been discussing the point of order have been taking advantage of it to make speeches against the Government on general questions, and I do not propose to follow them in that respect, nor even to defend the Government. I will further call attention to the precedent quoted by my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). He said, that a debate had been brought up, on a motion of adjournment, on the conduct of certain Dominion officials and the general policy of the Government, and so on. Those were certainly matters which this House had a right to inquire into, and they did not affect the personal character or standing of any member in this House. There is a vast difference between the cases. I am sure, Sir, that the House will agree with me, that when we talk of the privileges of Parliament, the privileges of each individual member constitute the privileges of Parliament. This is not a question especially concerning either the Government or the Opposition. No individual member who respects himself should allow these vague and unfounded attacks—as we must presume them to be until they are proven—until some member takes the responsibility of making them. No individual member who respects himself can allow this kind of discussion to go on, without protesting, and without, Mr. Speaker, sustaining you heartily in the ruling you have made.

Mr. DAVIN. I apprehend that now I can go on, and for the behoof of the Government, proceed to call attention to the state of things in the Saskatchewan.

Mr. SPEAKER. I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) is not going on with the personal charge.

Mr. DAVIN. No, Mr. Speaker. Now, Sir, an affidavit has been filed in the Saskatchewan by two respectable citizens, W. R. Fish and S. J. Donaldson, and that affidavit is as follows:—

In the matter of the petition lodged by Jno. R. McPhail against the election of Thos. O. Davis as member of the House of Commons for the district of Saskatchewan, and the agreement entered into between Jno. R. McPhail and Thos. O. Davis, M.P., and the Dominion Government, which caused further proceedings before the courts to cease, we, W. R. Fish and S. J. Donaldson, of the town of Prince Albert, in the judicial district of Saskatchewan, do solemnly declare, that on or about the 18th day of March, A.D. 1897, we called upon J. R. McPhail at his office in the town of Prince Albert, and were shown by him a document, which he informed us was an agreement between Thos. O. Davis, M.P., Jno. R. McPhail and the Government of Hon. Wilfrid Laurier; that we were permitted by Mr. McPhail to read the document; that we did read it, and noted very carefully its provisions, which were as follows:—

(1.) That the Dominion Government accepts Jno. R. McPhail as Government candidate at the next general election.

(2.) That Thos. O. Davis, M.P., agrees and promises to pay to Jno. R. McPhail the amount of expenses incurred in connection with the protest.

(3.) That Wm. Knox Graham Neilson, Alexander Selkirk Stewart, Jas. Macarthur and Jno. R. McPhail are hereby constituted an advisory committee to act with Thomas O. Davis, M.P., in all matters pertaining to the representation of Saskatchewan in the House of Commons and with the Dominion Government.

(4.) That no appointments to offices, &c., &c., are to be made by the Dominion Government, unless sanctioned and recommended by at least four members of the above committee.

That the signature of Jno. R. McPhail and Thos. O. Davis to this document were attested by Jas. Macarthur as witness.

That the Dominion Government and Thos. O. Davis, M.P., agree to conform to above conditions, provided Jno. R. McPhail does not proceed with the protest against the election of Thos. O. Davis, M.P.

And we make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act, 1893."

W. R. FISH.

S. J. DONALDSON.

Declared before me at Prince Albert, in the North-west Territories, this second day of April, A.D. 1897.

A. McNABB, J.P.

The paper says:

As the "Times" anticipated and predicted would be the case, the "Advocate"—

That is, the organ of the Liberal party there—

—made an effort to overcome the bad effects produced by the publication of the details of the now notorious McPhail-Davis-Laurier Government protest settlement. The intent to deceive its readers into the belief that no agreement exists or was entered into, was a most absurd one. The "Advocate's" article, entitled "The 'Times' Fake," was no reply at all to the straight, plain and truthful statements made by the "Times"