

patriot more anxious for his country's weal than for his personal advantage would cast about to find where his services would be most effective, and, having found it, proceed to render them with all his strength. Had he so acted, we should have found him doing in Quebec in 1915, 1916 and 1917 what in 1910 he said he would do, namely, go upon every platform in his native province and urge his compatriots to shed their last drop of blood for the preservation of British liberty. Had he fulfilled that promise, there would have been no need for conscription. A man possessed of a burning desire to attain a certain end manifests it in deeds, and is not content with words, however eloquent. For months he has had time and strength to lead and encourage obstruction to the Military Service and other Bills, but he has had during the last years no time or strength to induce his people in Quebec to do their duty. "By their fruits ye shall know them." According to his lieutenant from South Renfrew, the hon. gentleman who spoke this morning, and whose speech delivered at the picnic a few days ago was reported, if the leader of the Opposition were made leader of the Government he will take off his coat and proceed to the province of Quebec and fulfil his promise of 1910, and secure recruits by the thousands. That is, he will do his duty if you make him leader of the Government, but, as leader of the Opposition, no such duty devolves upon him. The hon. member for South Renfrew is the gentlemen who with 26 others a few days ago said that conscription was necessary to reinforce our men at the front, and voted for conscription. Yet to-day he is going to the country as supporting a man who is opposed to conscription. He said that conscription was actually necessary to enable us to continue the war. Now he is supporting a man who says: I will not have anything to do with conscription. That is, he

I a.m. will do his duty if you make him leader of the Government, but as leader of the Opposition no such duty devolves upon him. Strong evidence of patriotism and statesmanship that.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Whose speech is the hon. gentleman reading from?

Mr. CROTHERS: I am not reading from a conviction for manipulating and misappropriating trust funds in connection with the purchase of a saw dust wharf.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I rise to a point of order. If the hon. gentleman is in his right mind to-night he is guilty of slander of the worst possible description.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The statement he has made has not a particle of truth in it—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. PUGSLEY: It is absolutely false in every particular—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not noticed the hon. minister (Mr. Crothers) accuse any one.

Mr. PUGSLEY: We all know what he referred to—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. CROTHERS: How quickly he recognizes an old accomplice.

Mr. PUGSLEY: —and I repeat it is an act of slander unworthy of any member of this House.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I repeat it in the strongest language possible. The hon. gentleman ought to know better.

Mr. BUREAU: Let him read his conscription speech. He had not time to make it.

The DEPUTY MINISTER: The hon. minister has not referred to any particular member on the other side of the House. I do not think the hon. member for St. John has the right to call it slander.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I rose to a point of order, and I characterized the remark as slanderous—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. PUGSLEY: —and false—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. PUGSLEY: —and cowardly—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. PUGSLEY: —and I repeat it. You cannot get away with stuff like that.

Mr. CROTHERS: The reference I made was proved to the hilt in this House a few years ago. I will not take the time to go over it.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I deny that absolutely, Mr. Speaker. The hon. minister must know his statement is false, or he ought to know—