

Speech Delivered by
G. W. FOWLER, M. P.,
Kings and Albert, N. B.,

Feb. 19, 1907, in Dominion House of Commons.

Origin of "Women, Wine and Graft."

The words "women, wine and graft," have been thundered from one end of Canada to the other. They were used in a speech which follows and used only in reply to an insulting taunt employed by an obscure member from British Columbia, and one which Mr. Fowler instantly and effectually stopped.

Mr. Fowler was addressing himself to the Labour Bill, and resenting the insulting observations directed against railway employees and other working men by the Liberals, when the incident arose to which allusion is made above.

Defends Railway Employees.

Mr. Fowler—No better answer could be given to the member for Cape Breton (Mr. Johnston) than the statement made by the hon. member for Kootenay (Mr. Gallher). The hon. member for Cape Breton insinuated that the railway employees were not an intelligent class, and that they could be shifted and moved about as one might choose to move them. I protest against such a statement as that. I say there is no class of men in this country more intelligent than the railway employee. I have the honor to represent a very considerable number of them, and I will pit them against any class of the community, professional men or any others, for intelligence and probity. The railway employees are level-headed, intelligent men, men who can read over this bill and understand it for themselves without being required to be instructed by Mr. Harvéy Hall, or Mr. Johnston, or anybody else. (Cheers.)

Protest Against Liberal Insults.

I cannot too strongly express my disapproval of the insinuations which the member for Cape Breton, (Mr. Johnston), has made against the intelligence of the railway employees of this country. I have had many representations from the railway men of the district I represent, as well as from that great railway centre of Moncton, protesting against this measure and asking me to oppose it. (Hear, hear.) I have received protests from employers of labor as well, so that the bill must have been very ill-considered indeed to have met with such a storm of disapproval from all parties concerned. True, the hon. member from Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith) supports the measure. He came to this House a most strenuous supporter of labor legislation, but certain causes have combined to bring about in him a change of heart.