

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I ask my hon. friend to accept my statement and withdraw his. I will insist upon it too.

Mr. MANION: Hear, hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Withdraw.

Mr. SANDERSON: By the rules of the house I am compelled to take the word of the Minister of Public Works and withdraw that statement.

Mr. MANION: Hear, hear.

Mr. SANDERSON: Nevertheless I have in my mind what my hon. friend told me—

Mr. McGIBBON: That is cowardly.

Mr. SANDERSON: Don't you call me a coward. I want that withdrawn.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Take it back.

Mr. SANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have withdrawn my remark to the Minister of Public Works—

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister of Public Works has denied a statement attributed to him and the hon. gentleman is obliged to accept the denial.

Mr. SANDERSON: I have withdrawn the statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member who called out "coward" must withdraw that remark.

Mr. McGIBBON: Mr. Speaker, I did not say "coward." I said that the action implied in the hon. member's reply, wherein he withdrew his statement under compulsion and intimated that he did not believe the denial, was cowardly.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Withdraw.

Mr. SANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I quote to Your Honour rule 298:

The following expressions have been ruled to be unparliamentary in the British House of Commons:

Alleging that a member's statements were:
not consonant with personal honour;
cowardly;
dishonest;
insulting;

And so on.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already ruled that the remark must be withdrawn.

Mr. McGIBBON: I withdraw it with great pleasure, and following—

Mr. LAPOINTE: Stop there.

Mr. McGIBBON: I think I have a right to complete my sentence.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Don't spoil it.

Mr. McGIBBON: Well, I won't spoil it.

Mr. LAPOINTE: You are a sport, doctor.

Mr. SANDERSON: Now let me refer to my good friend from Toronto South (Mr. Geary). The hon. gentleman went out in the provincial elections. He said he did not think it was worth while going into western Ontario because all the candidates of his good friend Mr. Henry would be elected. Finally he consented under pressure to go into three or four ridings and the result was that in these three or four ridings the people gave huge majorities to the Liberal candidates—much larger majorities, possibly, than if the hon. gentleman had not gone into the ridings.

Mr. GEARY: You are not complaining about that, are you?

Mr. SANDERSON: In regard to the contractors, I went to say a word or two, but let me observe that the Minister of Public Works deserves no sympathy from anyone on this side.

Mr. LAPOINTE: He is a good fellow.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): He is not asking for any.

Mr. SANDERSON: When he was in opposition, without mercy and in a ruthless fashion he bombarded the Postmaster General for three weeks, and I fancy the reward he got for that was the position he now holds. Now he comes into this house and practically says in this bill, which he is sponsoring, that no contracts under \$25,000 shall be tendered for. He knows that is wrong; the Prime Minister knows it is wrong; the Minister of Justice knows it is wrong; the Minister of Railways knows it is wrong; and the Minister of National Revenue knows it is wrong. They are injecting into public works, under the guise of relief for unemployment, a system of patronage and graft such as this country has never seen before. It is all very well for the Minister of Public Works, backed up by the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Justice, to say, "Oh well, this government—"

Mr. COTNAM: Tell us about Beauharnois.

Mr. SANDERSON: "—will be honest; they will be fair and take care of the people's money." Well, three years ago, two years ago, for hours, under the leadership of the leader of the opposition we pleaded with this government to have an audit of the moneys sent out to the provinces for relief. They