

honorable House conversant with. I know too well my duty not only as a member of Parliament, but also as an occupant of a position of public trust, even to approach a Minister and ask him what would bring the blush of shame to my constituency. However, my political opponents have deemed proper, with reference to the granting of a certain amount to Mr. Whitehead, to make insinuating attacks on me; and with malignant ingenuity they have endeavored to misread and partially quote as well certain portions of the evidence calculated to be detrimental to me, and this they have circulated through the country, while I had no means of defence against such attacks. When the attack was made on me, the *Globe* said:

"Soon after the change of Government, it became necessary for him to prefer a large claim, and another thing he wanted was that the engineer in charge of the works, should be superseded by another, who was known to be favorable to Mr. Whitehead's claim in being paid. In order that he might stand well with the Government, Mr. Whitehead employed Mr. C. H. Mackintosh to act as go-between in the negotiations with Sir Charles Tupper. Mackintosh was no doubt employed because he was popularly supposed to have the ear of the hon. Minister, and for that reason Mr. Whitehead thought it would be profitable to pay the go-between a considerable percentage on the claim."

Now, I can inform this honorable House that, so far as I am concerned—as Mr. Whitehead as shown by his evidence, as I also showed, and as was corroborated by other evidence—I was acting for Mr. Whitehead, and on Mr. Whitehead's behalf prior altogether to the change of Government, and it was at Mr. Whitehead's request that I so acted. It is not necessary to go into private affairs, or to make private explanations, or to refer to private business; but I may say I found that Mr. Whitehead was not the victim of a Conservative interest, that it was not Conservatives who were making money out of him, but leading Reformers were the men who were gradually squeezing out his life's blood—and more, I think it could be established, if necessary, that Mr. Whitehead contributed sums of money to supporters of the previous Government. Consequently, when I found this to be the case, I cautioned Mr. Whitehead, and showed him what would be the result; and events proved that I was right, for at the expiration, I believe, of two years, he came to me, and showed me that his position was what I told him it would be, if he followed that course. I am not a wealthy man, and, as may be imagined, have suffered by my connection with Mr. Whitehead. I have not in reality made a dollar out of him so far as I am specially concerned; and, so far as the Government is concerned, I did not get him to contribute anything to the support of the Government, or of their political cause. Mr. Whitehead acted on his own behalf in these matters. In order to meet his notes I had to sacrifice nearly all the property I had. But these matters have been seized upon by my opponents, in connection with unsupported and uncorroborated statements, for the purpose of damaging me. They succeeded for a long time, and they got me down; but I got up again; and I tell hon. gentlemen opposite who are following me to-day, and who are attempting to insinuate wrong-doing on my part, that they were knocked down, that they were down for the second time, and that they will not get up again, if their policy is to be one of slander and abuse. So far as I am concerned, I can assure this honorable House that I have done nothing that could bring disgrace on any member of this House, and that if I had had opportunity and had known that this item was to have been discussed, I would have been prepared to discuss it fully. When the item came up the hon. member for West Durham said:

"I have a sort of suspicion which may be a very unjust and unworthy one, that there were more people than Mr. Mack—I apologize and retract—than Mr. Whitehead interested in this matter. I ask whether this was the contract about which a great deal of evidence was taken by the Canadian Pacific Railway Commission; whether this is the contract which was the subject of transactions between the Department and the contractor, and between the contractor and those who had been going surety for him and assisting him, and intervening with the De-

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partment; and whether this is the matter in respect to which divers notes were given by Mr. Whitehead for large sums of money?"

The hon. member for North Norfolk said:

"And I have here a copy of the letter furnished by Mr. Whitehead to Mr. Mackintosh. Now, Sir, it appears from the evidence that Mr. Mackintosh still holds Mr. Whitehead's acceptances for \$13,000 and interest and protest, amounting now probably to \$14,000. Mr. Mackintosh is in the position of a creditor to Mr. Whitehead, he holds these acceptances and can enforce payment, and I think the circumstances of the case point quite plainly to the supposition, at least, that among the creditors who are to be paid out of this allowance of \$88,000 to Mr. Whitehead for profits that he never realized in carrying out his contract, is this same Mr. Mackintosh. I think there is something very peculiar about this matter, something very suspicious about it. I do not think it is in the interest of Mr. Whitehead that this allowance is made. We have this suspicious circumstance, that \$14,000 of this money is very likely going to a friend of the Government, and we may fairly infer, if we could lay bare all the transactions, that there are other friends of the Government who are creditors of the same Mr. Whitehead; and I think that the inference the country will draw is, that the notice of the Government in introducing this vote is to reimburse those friends of theirs who are creditors to Mr. Whitehead in this matter."

I can inform hon. gentlemen that I have never filed any claim against Mr. Whitehead. In pursuance of the evidence I gave before the Commission, when I said that if Mr. Whitehead was pressed at any time financially, although I had taken up his notes, I would be the last one to endeavor to collect them. I said that distinctly; and after swearing to it, it is very unlikely after I took the oath that I would file a claim, or approach the Government, and endeavor to induce them to place in the Estimates an item which I did not know to be in the Estimates, until I came in late in the evening and found it there. I never approached the Government in this relation, and I can appeal to the hon. Minister of Railways, and to the right hon. leader of the Government, and ask them whether on any occasion I mentioned this matter to them, or endeavored to induce them to favor me in the least, as far as this matter is concerned. At that time I was not a member of Parliament, and there was no law to prohibit me from making arrangements with Mr. Whitehead in whatever way I wished to do; but I never did anything that was wrong, or in the least infringing on the rights and privileges of this honorable House. But it appears that this item is to be made the subject of an attack on me, and not only on me, but on the Government; although no more unfair, no more unjust, no more unfounded attack was ever made on a Government. In answer to the statement made by the hon. member for North Norfolk, I may say that I have filed no claim; and, so far as I am concerned, since I became a member of Parliament, and, I may add, prior to that, I can challenge any man to state whether on any occasion I have directly or indirectly offered any bribe, or attempted to forget the allegiance and duty which I owe to my constituents. I think the allusions were not only unwarranted, but unfair, because I was not a member of the House when this transaction took place. To say that, now that I am a member, I am endeavoring to induce the Government to put items in the Estimates, in order that I may be recouped for the losses which I have suffered as a private individual, is to make a statement utterly untrue, the fact being that for the last two years I have had to sacrifice a great deal of property in order to pay those acceptances. But so far as I am concerned, those who know my private business are aware of the truth behind all this. They also know that two years ago every newspaper in the country politically opposed to me endeavored to hound me to earth, but they did not succeed. They struck me down for a time, but when I came before the public it was established beyond a doubt that I had the confidence of the people. If these stories had been true—if they had been founded on fact, if there was nothing behind me other than the character of a mere trickster or speculator, I think it is reasonable to suppose that I would not have achieved the position