

that might be made or insinuated. He read Mr. Emmerson's language above mentioned, observing that his words had cast an aspersion on some seventy or seventy-five Members on the Conservative side of the House. Mr. Borden went on:

I desire to say that the hon. member for Westmorland has said either too much or too little, and I desire to say further to him, that I think it is his duty either to say more or to withdraw what he has said. I desire to say now, and I shall take opportunity to say it in his presence, that if he has any charge or any evidence to sustain any charge against the honor or status as a public man of any gentleman on this side of the House, I will give him every assistance within my power to press that charge. I think it necessary to say this much at the present moment. I have not the slightest conception of what the hon. member for Westmorland has alluded to. If there be any such charges, or even rumors, connected with the name of any gentleman on this side of the House, they have not come to my ears. If the hon. member for Westmorland has anything which will enable him to substantiate that which he has said by way of insinuation in this House, I trust he will take an opportunity to make good his insinuation. (Hansard, page 5667-8.)

BORDEN FOR INQUIRY—LAURIER AGAINST IT.

Again Sir Wilfrid Laurier appeared in the role of an objector. The Premier took the ground that as Mr. Emmerson's words were not taken down by the Clerk of the House at the request of some Member when they were spoken they could not now be brought up. Sir Wilfrid contended that Mr. Borden has no right to bring up the matter at all.

The Opposition Leader disagreed altogether with this view. He said that Sir Wilfrid's procedure dated from a time when there was no official report of speeches and when there would be no record of language used unless it were taken down by the Clerk. The House of Commons had a Hansard and speeches were revised by the Members who made them. In Mr. Borden's opinion Sir Wilfrid's rule was "altogether too technical to be applied when dealing with matters which concerned the honour of this House." Mr. Borden went on to contradict the suggested charge made in the press that there was or ever would be an understanding between parties to hush up any charges.

"I for one," he said, "protest against these insinuations inside of the House or outside of the House against the honor of Parliament, and I am prepared to go to the utmost limit of parliamentary usage, or even to go beyond parliamentary usage, in order that men either within the House or out of the House who are making insinuations of this kind may be brought up before a tribunal and asked to make good their charges or forever after hold their peace."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier insisted upon the point of order and as Mr. Emmerson was not present the matter dropped until he should be in his place.

MR. EMMERSON DISAPPEARED FROM THE HOUSE.

Mr. Emmerson did not again appear in the Chamber, though the House sat until the 27th of April, or four weeks after he made his speech and announced that he would remain in Parliament and be found ready to discuss the questions which he had mentioned.