

we are not generous enough to give them a little relief for their railway, although they have solemnly declared in this House that they could not do it with justice to the rest of the country. Why don't they say these things in Pontiac and elsewhere? No, Sir; they prefer to speak to the *Hansard*; they spend thousands and thousands of dollars to keep this Parliament sitting, because here they have reporters paid by the people to report the stories which they think the people will finally believe by constant repetition, and they have the privilege of members of Parliament to shelter themselves against the wrath of the people who refuse to believe them, and who repudiate them every time they have a chance. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Province of Quebec has been mentioned. It is all very well for the hon. gentleman to say that he had nothing to do with Mr. Mercier's money. I will admit it; but is it not true that Mr. Mercier never left the city of Quebec until after Mr. Pacaud had telegraphed to the leader of the Opposition that if he came down to Mr. Mercier's terms and conditions the latter would go to Montreal and be present on the same platform with the hon. gentleman to endorse his policy and his party? Is it not a fact that after the answer to this telegram had been received by Mr. Pacaud, the leader of the Opposition, having thought that everything was all right, Mr. Mercier turned up six hours after, by the next train, in the Bonsecours market.

Mr. LAURIER. That is not true.

Mr. OUMET. It is on record.

Mr. LAURIER. I challenge you to make a formal accusation.

Mr. DELISLE. It is not true.

Mr. OUMET. Well, Mr. Speaker, it would be funny if it were serious. The more serious the hon. gentleman is, the more funny it looks. Did he not, that very night in the presence of Mr. Mercier, promise him that if he and his party were returned to power the Province of Quebec would receive a slice of public money in the way of increased subsidy? Did he not state there that Mr. Mercier could go on with his extravagant expenditure, with his wasting the money of the province, because if the leader of the Opposition came into power he would give to Mr. Mercier the necessary resources to carry on the affairs of the country, to pay the interest on the increased debt, and to make a further loan on the Paris market for another ten millions, at conditions which would have allowed Mr. Mercier and his friends to have a nice commission, by which they could shelter themselves from the wrath of the people of the province? Are these facts not known? If we followed the example of hon. gentlemen opposite we could bring the hon. member to his trial before this House. We might do it, and then he might laugh, and justly laugh, in our faces, because he would say that he only made political promises. These promises were made to the electors, he would say, and although the electors accepted them and were influenced by them, the House had nothing to do with them. We know very well that they have great courage in their speeches before this House, because they shelter themselves under cover of their privileges as members of Parliament. When we offer to send the charges they make against this Government to a commission, they say we have emasculated

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their charges. Sir, we have emphasized them with their own language, and now if they dare not go before that commission, as the leader of this House has said, they will be marked on their forehead with the brand they deserve. Sir, I will only add that we are ready at any time to submit our case to the people. They are our natural judges, and we are willing to appeal to them, as we have already done on many occasions. The people have shown that although they may be deceived they are not long in discovering it, and in meting out the proper reward to the deceivers. Mr. Mercier was a great man for four years. He was a great man because he had succeeded in convincing the people after the Riel affair that he was a patriotic defender of their nationality, that he was the avenger of their wrongs; and, more than that, he succeeded in convincing them that his policy was one of true progress and of true patriotism. Then it was discovered that he was nothing but a man ready to put his hand in the treasury of his province in order to assist his friends, as he has done, for it cannot be denied that at least \$150,000 or \$200,000 was spent by them during the last election. I might give the names of some of those who supplied that money. About \$200,000 in 1891 were placed at the disposal of the hon. gentleman for carrying his elections.

Mr. LAURIER. Not a cent of it.

Mr. OUMET. If circumstantial evidence was worth something, and the books say it is after all the best evidence that can be adduced when it is complete, I could tell him about \$25,000 which were sent to Montreal. He will not deny that \$25,000 were deposited by Mr. Langlois to Mr. Mercier's credit in Quebec and transferred to the Banque Jacques Cartier in the name of Mr. Mercier or his brother; and further, that the money was placed to the credit of Mr. Geoffrion, the hon. gentleman's right-hand man in Montreal. He will not deny that the very evening after the money had been deposited the faces of all his friends showed that something had turned up to elevate their spirits, and that he himself, in a restaurant not very far from St James street, was dining with Mr. Mercier and Mr. Geoffrion.

Mr. LAURIER. I deny that most positively. I cannot characterize the hon. gentleman's language. This statement has been repeated often in the press, I know; but I never take any notice of a newspaper article; but now that a charge has been made by a member here, I declare that I never dined with Mr. Mercier and Mr. Geoffrion during the elections.

Mr. OUMET. Suppose the hon. gentleman had not dined. He may have lunched perhaps.

Mr. LAURIER. That is one of those slanders created and repeated, and easily believed by the hon. gentleman, who is of a very credulous nature. I never took a meal with Mr. Geoffrion and Mr. Mercier during the elections.

Mr. OUMET. Well, Mr. Speaker, I never said that Mr. Geoffrion had told the hon. gentleman that the money had come up; but the hon. gentleman might have known, if he had followed his election, that the next day his friends, who were a day or two previous in a state of despair, boomed up and were all happy, and left Montreal like a flock of birds, happy to carry around the good news that at last Mr. Mercier had come to the res-