

times the majority which the hon. the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Pugsley) was able to command, there is a situation before this country generally and before the Prime Minister which demands attention. We know that my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works was the counsel of the hon. member for Westmoreland upon a memorable occasion to which I will not further allude, and I would ask him now to redress the injury of his much wronged client, to give up his portfolio, to restore the hon. member for Westmoreland to his own and to do that which would only be fair and right if we are to conclude that the verdict of the electorate has established that confidence in the government which has been claimed by the Liberal press and by hon. gentlemen.

Now, I do not desire to go very much over the issues of the late campaign, but there is one matter upon which I do propose to say a word, and only a word, in justice to myself and to the Liberal-Conservative party of this country. I became aware on the 21st day of October, when I landed in the county of Pictou from the province of Prince Edward Island, from some information given to me by my friends in that county, that a certain pamphlet was being circulated by the Liberal organization in the county of Pictou among the electors of the county of a certain religious belief. I had not even seen the original of the pamphlet before, I had not known that it had been put by any person into pamphlet form, but upon my arrival on the next day, the 22nd of October, in the city of Halifax, or within twenty-four hours after my arrival, I learned that a despatch had been sent from certain Liberal quarters in the city of Halifax to certain Liberal journals in the city of Montreal that that pamphlet had made its appearance in the city of Halifax contemporaneously with my arrival in that city. The innuendo, to use the words of my right hon. friend on another occasion, was unmistakable. I learned more about the distribution of that pamphlet afterwards and I have in my hand a specimen copy to which I will venture to refer at least to the extent of pointing out the use of this pamphlet which was made in some parts of the maritime provinces and to the statement made in regard to it by the Liberal organization in the province of Prince Edward Island. I have here, in my hand, one of these pamphlets containing in connection with it this fly-leaf. I have not read it, but I take it for granted that the pamphlet is reproduced here as it originally appeared in a certain newspaper in the province of Ontario. Attached to it is this fly-leaf:

This is a sample of the literature circulated by the Conservative party in Orange and Protestant settlements. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a Catholic leader and because he is a Catholic must be defeated so says this pamphlet.

Some Hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (reading):

Will you stand for this? Read and decide for yourself.

I want to say to those gentlemen who have cried, hear, hear—

Some Hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That the statement that that was circulated by the Conservative party or by any Conservative organization is an absolute, a malicious and a deliberate falsehood. That is all I have to say about it, and if any hon. gentleman has any information to the contrary I can only say that I have made the most careful inquiry and I cannot find that that pamphlet was ever circulated in any constituency in Canada by the Conservative party or by any Conservative organization. In my own county of Halifax I believe that pamphlet wrought an effect exactly the opposite of that which was intended.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Because although the pamphlet was distributed by the Liberal organization in certain portions of the country where it was hoped it would have a certain effect, I believe that I obtained in the last election in the county of Halifax a larger number of the votes of the Roman Catholic electorate than on any previous occasion.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. Would my hon. friend inform me whether he knows that that pamphlet was circulated by Conservatives who did not happen to belong to the official Conservative organization in the county?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If any such thing took place I never heard of it, and with all respect to my hon. friend I may say that I have no reason to believe and do not believe that it was circulated by the Conservative organization of the county or by any person having any official connection with the Conservative party.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. I have in my possession copies of the pamphlet entitled 'The Duty of the Hour' circulated in the county of Pictou by Conservatives in that county.

Mr. CARVEL. How many did you circulate?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What individual Conservatives may have done I do not know. I shall read again this fly-leaf in order that its language may be emphasized and that the false and misleading character of the statement made may again attract the attention of the House:

This is a sample of the literature circulated by the Conservative party in Orange and Protestant settlements.