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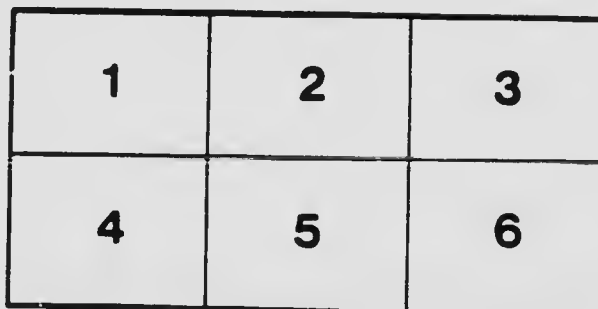
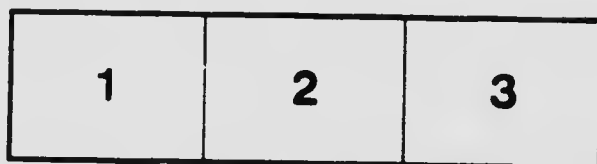
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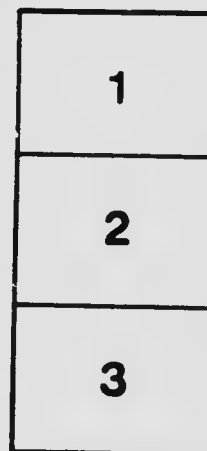
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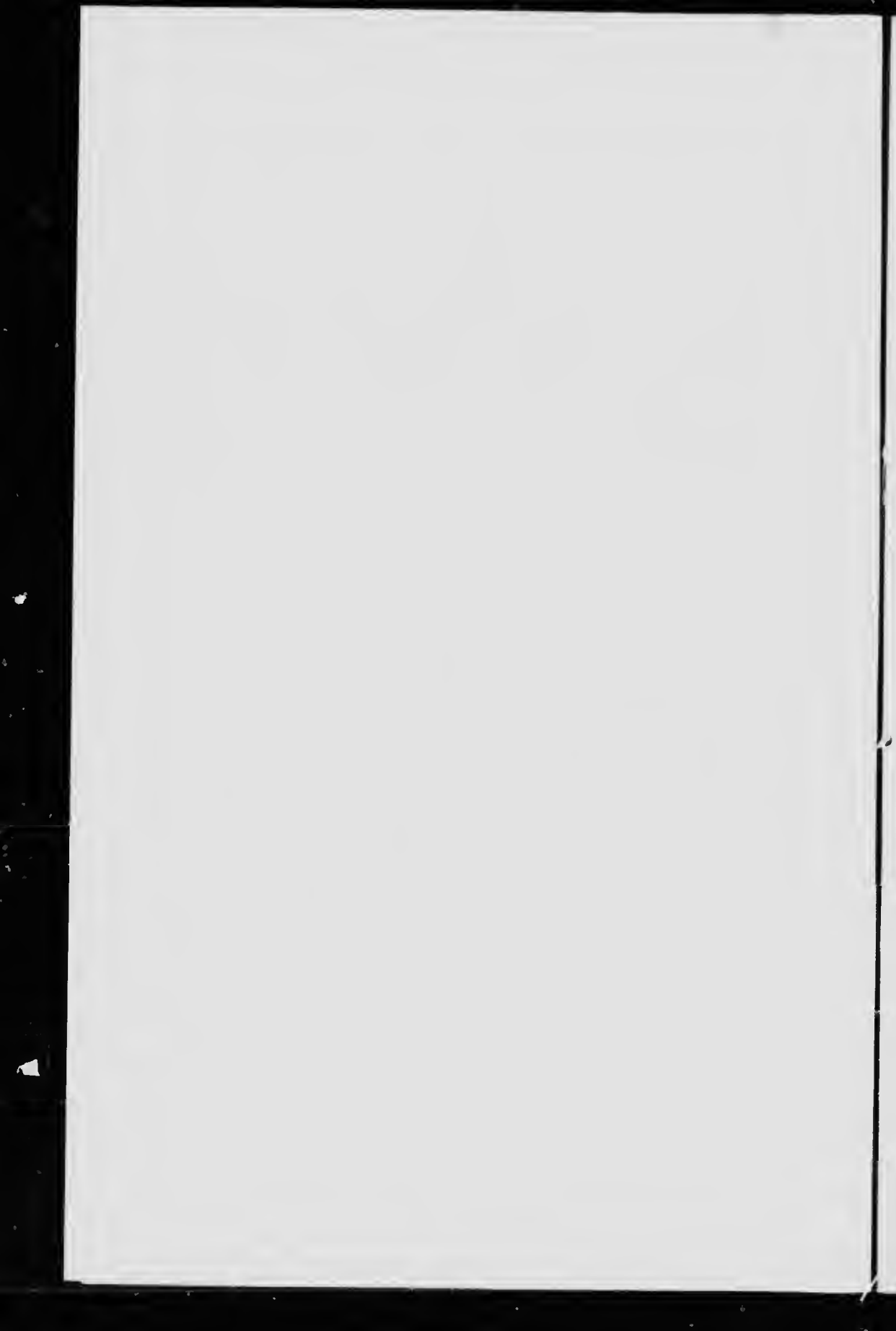
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THREE NOTABLE SPEECHES

DELIVERED BY

Geo. W. Fowler, M. P.

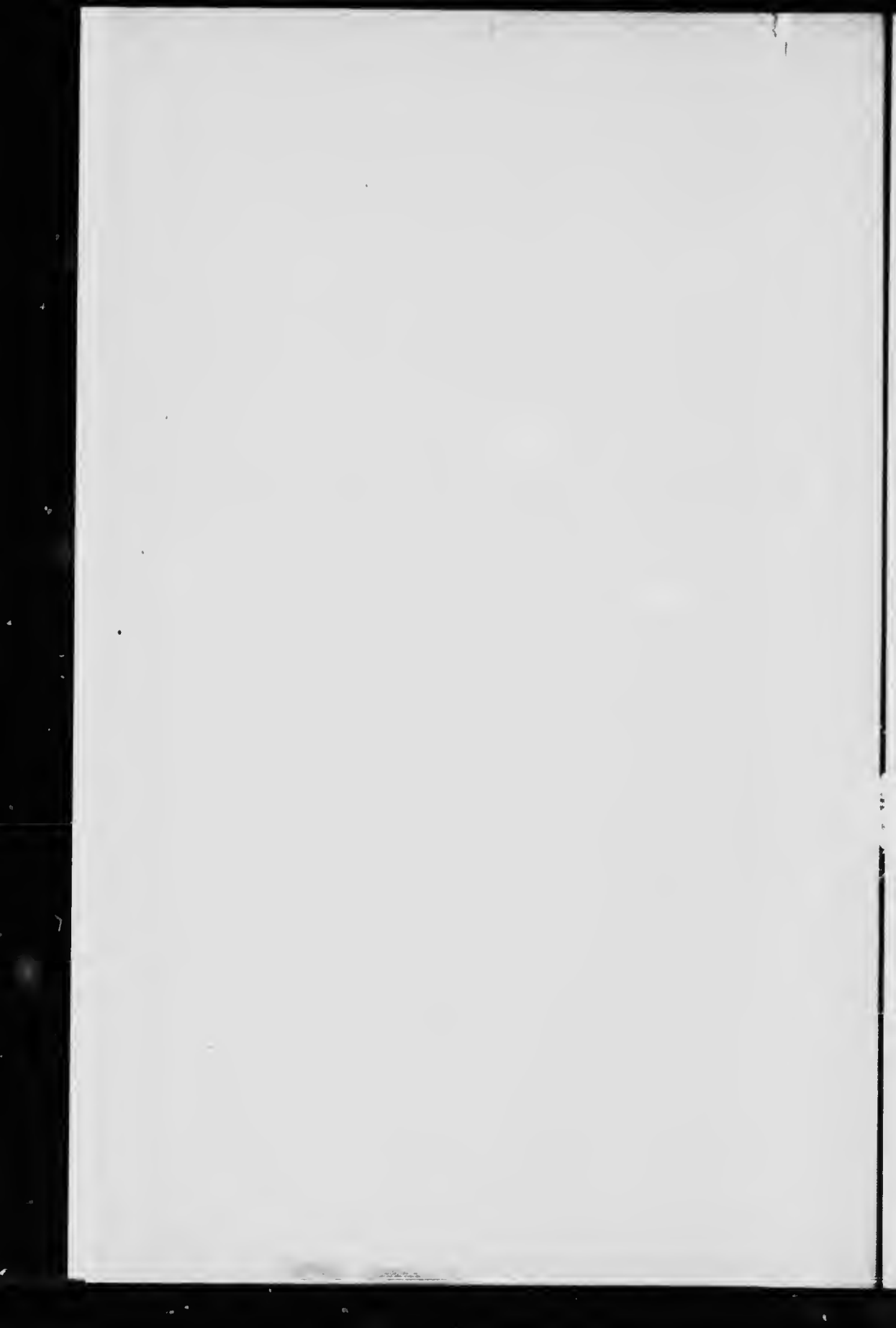
FOR KINGS AND ALBERT,

NEW BRUNSWICK,

In the Dominion House of Commons.

Feb. 19, Feb. 21, April 15, 1907

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON



INTRODUCTION.

Mr. G. W. Fowler, M. P. for Kings and Albert, N. B., was heard many times in the House during the past session criticizing the public expenditure when the estimates were under discussion, and in committee, assisting in framing enactments for the public interest. He was found also in the public accounts committee probing into the financial dealings of the various departments.

The chief speeches, however, delivered by the member for Kings and Albert will be found in the following pages. These speeches mark an epoch in Canadian public life, because as a result of them, two Cabinet Ministers will no longer be advisers of His Excellency. Liberal members in the House whose unsavory operations in public lands, purchased from a complaisant government, will cease innuendo with respect to private affairs of members, with which the House of Commons has nothing to do. Insulting remarks from men who will never be more conspicuously known in public life than when they had the privilege of occupying back seats in the House of Commons ceased. The hireling Liberal press of the country has now realized that when a man of Mr. Fowler's determination and clean record passes his word that in a certain event he will take a certain course, he will do so to the uttermost limit. Most important of all, the people of the country recognize that Parliamentary ethics alone intervened between Mr. Fowler and the Liberal party in the House of Commons, which saved the party from annihilation and disruption.

Speech Delivered by
G. W. FOWLER, M. P.,

Kings and Albert, N. B.,

Feb. 19, 1907, in Dominion House of Commons.

Origin of "Women, Wine and Graft."

The words "women, wine and graft," have been thundered from one end of Canada to the other. They were used in a speech which follows and used only in reply to an insulting taunt employed by an obscure member from British Columbia, and one which Mr. Fowler instantly and effectually stopped.

Mr. Fowler was addressing himself to the Labour Bill, and resenting the insulting observations directed against railway employees and other working men by the Liberals, when the incident arose to which allusion is made above.

Defends Railway Employees.

Mr. Fowler—No better answer could be given to the member for Cape Breton (Mr. Johnston) than the statement made by the hon. member for Kootenay (Mr. Gallher). The hon. member for Cape Breton insinuated that the railway employees were not an intelligent class, and that they could be shifted and moved about as one might choose to move them. I protest against such a statement as that. I say there is no class of men in this country more intelligent than the railway employee. I have the honor to represent a very considerable number of them, and I will pit them against any class of the community, professional men or any others, for intelligence and probity. The railway employees are level-headed, intelligent men, men who can read over this bill and understand it for themselves without being required to be instructed by Mr. Harvéy Hall, or Mr. Johnston, or anybody else. (Cheers.)

Protest Against Liberal Insults.

I cannot too strongly express my disapproval of the insinuations which the member for Cape Breton, (Mr. Johnston), has made against the intelligence of the railway employees of this country. I have had many representations from the railway men of the district I represent, as well as from that great railway centre of Moncton, protesting against this measure and asking me to oppose it. (Hear, hear.) I have received protests from employers of labor as well, so that the bill must have been very ill-considered indeed to have met with such a storm of disapproval from all parties concerned. True, the hon. member from Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith) supports the measure. He came to this House a most strenuous supporter of labor legislation, but certain causes have combined to bring about in him a change of heart.

Labour Candidate Changes Front.

The Prime Minister has spoken of a change of front, but the right hon. gentleman has on his own side of the House a most remarkable instance of a change of front in the person of the hon. gentleman from Nanaimo, who came here as a great champion of labor.

Mr. Ralph Smith—So he is to-day.

Mr. Fowler—Formerly the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ralph Smith) roared like a lion rampant in the cause of labor, but to-day he cooes like a dove. What is the reason for the change?

Mr. Ralph Smith—Does my hon. friend want an answer to that question?

Mr. Fowler—Why, I am going to give the answer myself. I am not going to take a manufactured answer. I will give the one and the only true answer. (Cheers.)

Mr. Ralph Smith—Will my hon. friend permit me to answer his question?

Experienced Laurier's Sunny Smile.

Mr. Fowler—The change must be because he has been brought under the influence of the Prime Minister, and has had an opportunity of distributing among his friends the patronage of the district he represents, and also seeing in his mind's eye some future promotion for himself. He has climbed as high as the labour organizations could put him, but he is ambitious—and a man is not worth much if he is not ambitious. My hon. friend from Nanaimo is ambitious to change from the very ordinary chair and cramped quarters which he occupies to a much more sumptuous chair and a much wider sphere in a distant part of this great Dominion of ours. I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ralph Smith) will reach the goal of his ambition.

Mr. Ralph Smith—I put a fair question to my hon. friend (Mr. Fowler). Does he mean to say that I have been asking for privileges such as he describes?

Mr. Lancaster—He says you hope for them.

Mr. Ralph Smith—I put a fair question: Does my hon. friend (Mr. Fowler) mean to state in this House that I have been asking for the privileges he describes?

Self Evident Proposition.

Mr. Fowler—Why, the hon. gentleman does not have to ask; the hon. gentleman has made himself so useful to the government in drawing towards it the labor vote that there is nothing in the gift of the government which they would not be only too glad to give him in recognition of the splendid service he has performed for them as a party man. We were told by the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. Johnston) and by the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith) that there was a universal psalm of praise sent up to the Minister of Labor because he introduced this great bill. They told us that the coal miners, whom they represented specially, were in favor of this bill, but now we see the other side of the shield, for here is my hon. friend from Kootenay (Mr. Galliber), who represents a large number of miners, and he voices their protest against this legislation. (Cheers.)

Workmen Object to Labor Bill.

There is also my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy), who represents a mining constituency, and he voices the protest of the United Mine Workers Association. There is, therefore, not that universal acceptance of this bill which the Prime Minister, the Minister of Labor, the member for Nanaimo and the member for Cape Breton tell us there is.

Railway Men Oppose Bill.

We have also the protest of one of the most important labor organizations in this country—the railway labor organization—an organization second to none in point of numbers, and an organization which represents independent opinion and intelligent thought. The trainmen, the conductors, the locomotive engineers, the firemen, the telegraphers, have all pronounced themselves opposed to this legislation. In view of this, surely the government will allow this bill to stand until the whole question can be threshed out before a special committee. This bill is supposed to be in the interest of conciliation, but is the government itself adopting a conciliatory attitude? Is it setting a good example, when it says that because it has a majority at its back—and the great proportion of that majority is ready to do anything the government tells it to do right along—is it going to railroad this bill through the House, whether those in whose favor it is supposed to be are in favor of it or not?

Interferes With Men's Liberty.

It is a very grave matter when you come to interfere, as you are interfering in this legislation, with the liberty of the individual. The Minister of Labor proposes to restrict individual rights on behalf of the general public, he is going to prevent men from doing what they have a right to do today, and such a thing should only be done after mature deliberation. No good reason has been given why this bill should be forced through the House now. We are all in favor of legislation which will prevent strikes, because strikes are bad for labor, and bad for capital, and bad for the public; but while we want to get rid of this evil, I, for one, am not in favor of needlessly encroaching upon the liberty of the subject. I am a great believer in individual liberty, and I say that a matter of this kind ought to be considered very carefully, and I trust that the government will allow this bill to go to a special committee, where it will have that careful consideration which it has not yet had. (Hear, hear.)

Man Who Was Set On.

Mr. Duncan Ross—it is delightfully refreshing to see the change that has come over hon. gentlemen opposite. The hon. member for Kings (Mr. Fowler) is so anxious to discuss this question from an entirely different point of view from that taken by hon. gentlemen opposite two or three weeks ago that he is now discussing the ambition of the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith). Well, there are ambitions. There are ambitions that are honorable, and there are ambitions that are otherwise. I think we can leave the ambition of the hon. member for Nanaimo to the judgment of this House and the judgment of this country. The hon. member for Kings has had his ambitions. He has been ambitious to be a landed proprietor in the Northwest; he has been ambitious to be a lumber king in the province of British Columbia; and possibly later developments will show what kind of ambitions the hon. gentleman has had. (Great uproar.)

At this point both sides of the House cheered and jeered. Mr. Ross saw he had put his foot in it, but appeared unable to find words which would assist him in the dilemma in which he found himself, and he looked correspondingly foolish.

Fowler Throws Down Gauntlet.

Mr. Bennett—Tell us about it.

Mr. Fowler—Go on; tell us the whole story. Let us have the whole story.

and we will show your connection with Mr. Hill—and we will give you the true inside of the Hyman story too.

The Chairman (Mr. Campbell)—Order, please.

Mr. Fowler—We will give you all you want.

Mr. Duncan Ross—So far as the hon. member for Kings is concerned, he is quite prepared to give his fair share of Billingsgate in this House.

Mr. Fowler—It is unequal to you. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Duncan Ross—But I am prepared to say this, that the hon. member for Kings has got to change his tactics in this House unless he wants to get a landing for his Oliver. I also want to tell him that so far as my personal record in this House is concerned, it has not yet been a matter of investigation.

Mr. Fowler—Neither has mine.

Mr. Duncan Ross—And if he wants to make a charge against me in my public capacity or my private capacity, he can do it just as soon as he likes.

Mr. Fowler—And so can you with mine, just as soon as you want to—either in this House or out of it. (Prolonged cheers.)

Mr. Bennett—Follow your bluff or shut up.

Mr. Fowler—He will take back water.

Mr. Armstrong—Be a man or a muff.

Mr. Duncan Ross—It is delightful to see hon. gentlemen opposite to excited. It is so refreshing. They must be hurt. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) has been pleased to quote from "Hansard." The hon. chief whip of the Conservative party, thirteen days ago, on the 6th day of February, made this statement in this House:

"Well, if there are any men in this country who work long hours it is the employers of labor, because while the working man commences work at seven o'clock and quits at six and has his evening to himself, his employer is worked in his office very often until midnight endeavoring to provide the money which enables him to employ labor."

On the 6th of February, 1907, the hon. chief whip of the Conservative party was pleading for the employer. Then it was all right for men to work from seven in the morning to six in the evening, because they had their evenings to themselves. But on the 19th of February, 1907, the chief whip of the Conservative party, with tears in his eyes, and tears in his voice, pleads for the rights of the poor laboring men—give them time to present their case to this House. Why this change of cry? The amendment of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), an amendment that means practically kill this bill, when every one of them some two weeks ago was in favor of the principle of this bill? I have the exact extract from "Hansard" where the hon. member for Jacques Cartier said that the position the leader of the opposition then took was that the bill should go into committee where any changes they might be fit to suggest could be made. That was their position then. What is their position to-day? Why this change? Are hon. gentlemen opposite stamped by a rather astute but Tory representative of a certain labor organization in this country, in the hope, not that they can advance labor legislation in the public interest, but that they think they can strengthen themselves in connection with a certain by-election now pending, which may take place in a couple of weeks from now?

Mr. Lennox—In British Columbia?

Fowler Gives Hard Knocks.

Mr. Fowler—That is a bitter pill. The Judas that carried the bag.

Mr. Duncan Ross—The hon. gentleman, I think, made some reference to the British Columbia election. The hon. member for Kings, with that gentlemanly and kindly courtesy which he always shows to every member of the House, sneers across the House at the Judas who carried the bag. If he thinks that a proper parliamentary expression, I might retort, if I wanted to do so, that the hon. gentleman might be a gentleman of that description, and he might not always have had the bag if everybody got a square deal. I just wanted to point out that, so far as we can judge by the reports of "Hansard," in two weeks hon. gentlemen opposite have changed their position for some purpose of their own.

Liberal Taunts Effectually Stopped.

To adequately appreciate what follows, and understand the position in which Mr. Fowler found himself which led to the famous and most effectual attack, one which has shaken the Liberal party from its diameter to its circumference, and retired from active public life at least two Cabinet Ministers, it must be remembered that from the time the Insurance Commission proceedings commenced Mr. Fowler and others had been constantly annoyed in the House by jeers, interjections and taunts thrown across the floor of the House. Mr. Fowler decided that the next time he encountered these insults, he would retort, and in such manner that he would effectually silence the back benchers and secure for himself immunity from such insults and attacks.

Mr. Fowler—I can quite understand that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross) should feel pretty cross. He started out on an excursion a few weeks ago. He was well equipped. He had a large grip for his journey. He had with him the bag that was going to do the trick and change the British Columbia Legislature from Conservative to Liberal. What happened to the bag we do not know, but the string must have become untied while it was in the hon. gentleman's custody and before it reached its destiny.

Makes Ross Eat Crow.

It did not reach where it should; and if his colleagues had known him as he is known in the district where he lives, they never would have sent him with the bag. (Loud laughter and cheers.) He charged me with having made sneering references to the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith,) and it was in consequence of those that he indulged in the nasty, dirty, mean insinuations to which he gave vent with respect to myself. But I made no sneers with regard to the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith). I spoke of him as being ambitious and said that was quite proper. Surely a man who aspires to be the governor of a province or a territory has an honorable ambition. And as a personal friend of the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith), I was glad when I read in the public press that he was likely to occupy that high and distinguished position. I congratulated him on the fact the first time I met him, and I am glad indeed that his merit and ability have been so recognized by the government. I intended making no insinuations against the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ralph Smith) and no man whose mind was not warped would imagine that I did. But I can quite understand how the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Ross,) would consider my remarks an insinuation against the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith). The sewer, which takes the place of a mind with him, would naturally cause him to take that view. (Laughter.)

The hon. gentleman has spoken of myself as being ambitious to become a landholder in the Northwest. Sir, in conjunction with other gentlemen, I

did become a landholder in the Northwest and have the honor still to hold a certain amount of land which, I am glad to say, is increasing in value. But I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross) has very much land or much of anything else.

Scores the Government.

Is it a disgrace for a man to become a landholder or to have the ambition to be a landholder in this country? And remember that the lands I had the honor to hold and that which I still hold were not obtained from the government at \$1 per acre. They were not obtained by means of closed leases at first and then a purchase, but they were bought in the open market from private parties, and the transaction is one with which this House has absolutely nothing to do. (Hear, hear.) But we had hon. gentlemen opposite the other day standing up here and saying that the Robins land deal was all right. I do not know but that the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Duncan Ross) voted in favor of that. At any rate, if he were here he would have voted in favor of it, because there can be no transaction nefarious enough in this government which he would not vote for. (Hear, hear.) He is a mere automaton, a wooden man, who jumps as the string is pulled. (Hear, hear.)

Were His Private Affairs.

So far as my connection with timber land deals is concerned, that is entirely a matter of private contract between myself and private parties, with which this House has nothing to do.

Gives Liberals Warning.

I have nothing to discuss in this House in that connection and up to this time I have not referred to private matters; but I want this House and the right hon. the First Minister and the government to understand that if matters in connection with my private business are to be discussed in this House, I shall take an opportunity to discuss the private character of members of this administration and members on that side. (Loud cheers.) I want to say to hon. gentlemen opposite that I shall discuss those without fear or favor, that I shall call a spade a spade, and when I speak of the indisposition of an hon. minister which keeps him out of the House, I shall tell exactly what it was and how it was brought on. (Continued cheers.)

Women, Wine and Graft.

I shall allow no man to make an attack on me or my character without retorting. (Loud cheers.) I shall discuss the character of hon. members opposite, whether they be ministers or private members, and their connection with women, wine and graft. (Loud and continued cheering and great uproar.)

It has come to a pretty pass when men, because they happen to be in a representative capacity, are to be abused throughout the length and breadth of the country. (Renewed cheers.) Are you going to lower the tone of public life to such a degree that if a man goes into politics he shall be smeared and have mud thrown at him by every dirty cur that goes along the streets. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman (Mr. Campbell)—The hon. gentleman is out of order.

Mr. Fowler—There are dirty curs along the street besides what may be mentioned in this chamber, and I was not necessarily referring to any member of this House. (Loud cheers.)

The Chairman (Mr. Campbell)—That is not parliamentary language.

Have Gathered Evidence.

Mr. Fowler—I cannot see wherein I have offended by saying that, because I am not applying it to anyone in this House. I am simply discussing the question whether or not a public man shall be liable to all sorts of slander and abuse simply because he happens to belong to one political party or the other. If you are going to begin that kind of thing, I do not propose to be singled out for such attacks. There are gentlemen opposite living in very frail glass houses. I have taken a little trouble and pains to gather together some data with respect to some of them; and if I am attacked, I do not propose to allow any such insinuations as were made by the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Ross) to pass without retalating. I heard, before I came to this House—wait until we come and then the hon. member for Kings (Mr. Fowler) will see what will happen.

Exposes Minister of Justice.

I was told that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Aylesworth) has provided certain members opposite with advance copies of the evidence in connection with the Insurance Commission and had prepared a brief, and they were going to work this matter up and I was to be attacked. (Hear, hear.) Well, I am not afraid of any attack which hon. gentlemen can bring against me. Let them try it on as quickly as they like. I am prepared, along with that deference, to carry the war into the enemy's country and give them, not one Roland, but twenty Rolands for their one Oliver. I want hon. gentlemen opposite to understand that. I do not believe in this sort of thing. (Laughter and cheers.)

Charges Sir Wilfrid Direct.

And, sir, who is responsible for it? The Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is the man in whose hands rests the honor of this House and who is responsible for the tone of the debate on this floor. The Prime Minister can prevent that sort of attack. (Hear, hear.) If he thinks it good politics to authorize that kind of attack, let him go ahead—he is responsible, not I. But I should be a poltroon if, when I am attacked, I did not defend myself, and not only defend myself, but, having the material, if I did not use that material to carry the attack into the other side. Now, as I say, let these charges, let this scandal—this alleged scandal—if you have any with respect to me, be brought forward. Hear, hear, and cheers.) You cannot bring it on too soon.

Bring Along Your Charges.

I have never, in my public or in my private capacity, done anything of which I am ashamed, or of which I have need to be ashamed, or of which any honest, decent man should be ashamed. (Cheers.) Let them bring on their scandal, let them produce their witnesses and their evidence. But, let me tell you, if I am attacked, I shall defend myself, and not only defend myself, but also lead an attack. (Great applause.)

Mr. Derbyshire—Let's have it.

Some hon. members—Six o'clock.

Liberals Want to Quit.

Mr. Fowler—You want to quit. My hon. friend from Brockville (Mr. Derbyshire) who, I believe, has the honor to be president of the Milkmaids' Association—and he certainly looks the part—says: "Let's have it." It rests altogether with his own friends when they shall have it—they will have it as soon as I am attacked. That is all I have to say with respect to the matter now, but I shall have a good deal to say when the time comes. If my hon. friends on the other side think it a proper discussion for this House, let them bring on this attack as soon as they like. (Repeated cheers greeted Mr. Fowler as he resumed his seat.)

Speech Delivered by
G. W. FOWLER, M. P.,

Kings and Albert, N. B.,

Feb. 21, 1907, in Dominion House of Commons.

After Mr. Fowler had employed the vital words "women, wine and graft" it is needless to say that no more insults were hurled across the floor of the House, no more innuendoes were indulged in by the Liberals at the expense of the member for Kings and Albert. The matter, however, came up in a motion introduced by Mr. Bourassa, and it was while participating in that debate that Mr. Fowler delivered the following powerful address—

Lands on Bourassa.

Mr. Geo. W. Fowler, Kings, N. B.—As one of the parties to the debate on Tuesday, which perhaps to some extent has given rise to this matter, perhaps I should say a few words before the incident closes. I understand that the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) has conceived it to be his duty having a high and proper regard for the honour and dignity of parliament, to bring up this matter. He, it seems, is of the opinion, an opinion which is apparently shared by a portion of the press of this country, that something very derogatory to the honor and dignity of parliament occurred here on Tuesday last, inasmuch as certain insinuations were bandied back and forth between members on opposite sides of the House with respect to private matters.

Quotes Bourassa's Speech.

Well, Sir, I think the hon. member for Labelle must, in this respect at least have experienced a change of heart since last session. If members who were here on that occasion and heard the speech delivered by the hon. member—I have not the 'Hansard' before me, but it must be in the minds of all hon. gentlemen who heard it—that hon. member made some references and some insinuations that were very strong and very pointed with respect to personal matters in connection with members of this House. (hear, hear.) I am glad that the hon. gentleman has experienced that change of heart, and that he now thinks these insinuations should not be indulged in. I think that is absolutely correct, that is the proper position, a high and lofty, and noble position to take.

Mr. Bourassa—May I ask my hon. friend what remarks of mine he refers to?

Scores a Stinging Point.

Mr. Fowler—Well, the hon. gentleman was referring to his own financial condition when he became a member of this House, and in the same speech he referred to the financial condition of another hon. gentleman prominent in this House and prominent in the public affairs of this country, and he contrasted the two conditions. I do not pretend to be able to quote the speech verbatim, but the substance of it, as we all remember, was this: that whereas, when he came into this House he was possessed of lands, carriages

and horses, and now he had none, a certain other hon. gentleman in this House, had none of these things when he came into this House, and now he was possessed of lands and palatial mansions, horses and carriages.

Mr. Bourassa—I think that the hon. gentleman if he will take the trouble to ascertain, will find that there is a slight difference between the remarks I made then and those I made today. I put his remarks on the very same level with other similar remarks that have been made by other hon. gentlemen.

Ridicules Bourassa's Methods.

Mr. Fowler. I quite understand that the remarks the hon. gentleman made were somewhat different from those made the other day. The hon. member is a skillful and dexterous master of attack. He does not strike with a bludgeon, as some of us have to do, but he thrusts with a poignard and pierces with a sword. His remarks were not perhaps quite so brutal as the remarks made the other day, but they were not so strong, they had not so much of the Anglo-Saxon in them, as the remarks made on Tuesday. But Sir, they hit home just the same. They carried with them a venom of insinuation just as bitter, and the hon. gentleman had not the excuse which some of us had the other day, and which I had on Tuesday in the remarks which I made. (hear, hear.) The hon. gentlemen had not been personally attacked, there was nothing said against him; but, Sir, rising calmly, without any personal feeling in the matter—or he should have had none except the interest of any ratepayer and citizen of this country—with nothing to excite him. (th nothing to inflame him, he did make the statements to which I refer. (cheers).

Now, I must congratulate the hon. gentleman upon having experienced that change of heart. I may congratulate him upon being ready now to denounce the use of insinuations in this House. I quite agree with him, everybody must agree with him, even the people who indulge in these insinuations must agree with the hon. gentleman that abstractly he is absolutely right. But when he has long heard mean innuendos flung against him, without cause, one is not always master of himself, and when he comes to strike back he may be tempted to hit heavier perhaps than the occasion requires. Now, what happened on Tuesday last? We were discussing the Labor Bill of the Minister of Labor.

Mr. Lemieux—The Disputes Bill.

Explains Why He Attacks.

Mr. Fowler.—I accept the correction. It certainly has justified its title, it has given rise to disputes in this House which perhaps may not be forgotten for a long time. As I say, I was discussing that Bill, and in the course of the discussion I had occasion to refer to the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith), and I contrasted his former attitude as it appeared to me, with his present attitude. I did that in no unkindly spirit, I may say that I did it in no offensive spirit. (hear, hear.) I discussed that question and that point in a legitimate and proper manner, and yet a certain member violently took offence and indulged in insinuations with respect to my private business in connection with matters that were disclosed by the Insurance Commission.

Retaliated in Kind.

Well, Sir, I am a somewhat hot tempered individual. I admit that, and that roused my temper to some degree. Perhaps if it had been the first time those insinuations had been made, it would not have had that effect. But those insinuations have been made during the whole of this session, every once in a while, and even before I came here this session. I did not think

it was proper for them to be made, but they were, and there was only one way of stopping that thing.

Mr. Bennett—And you have done it.

How He Stopped Insults.

Mr. Fowler—There was only one way of ending that thing. I do not propose to stand here and have things of that sort called out across the floor to me, or matters of that sort discussed by hon. gentlemen opposite, while I sit like a tame dog and listen to it without replying in kind. (Cheers.) That may be the proper Sunday school way of doing these things; it may be that some of those gentlemen who write for the press and who condemn what I did on Tuesday last, would take a slap in the face and smile at the man who slapped them.

Built on Manly Lines.

I am not built along those lines, Mr. Speaker, I am not built along those lines. There is Scotch blood in me, Sir, and I want to say that I stand by the good old Scotch motto "Nemo me impune lacessit." The man who strikes me will get a return blow if I can get close enough to him to give it. (Cheers.) Now, that may not be the highest kind of honour, but it is the best kind that I have got. I have got along so far with it, and I shall persevere to the end, notwithstanding the strictures of some hon. members of this House and of some writers in that publication known as the Montreal 'Star'—yes, and the Toronto News, as my hon. friend reminds me. They may take this high ground if they like. But the ordinary man will not do that, (hear, hear.)

Will Strike Blow for Blow.

He will not turn the other cheek except to get a better purchase for his blow: that is all. The other day, as I say, these insinuations were made across the floor of the House. I did say things. I said that if I was attacked I should defend myself and that in addition to defending myself I should carry the war into Africa, into the enemy's country.

Are All Others Innocent.

Do you, Mr. Speaker, do hon. gentlemen and do the people of this country imagine that I am the only individual in this House among the 214 or 217 members against whom things can be said in connection with their private business? Well, they are a very immaculate body of men if that be true. If I had not been goaded to it as I was I should not have said anything; but I say and say deliberately that I will not allow myself to be attacked in this way without defending myself and I consider that there are two points of defence. One is by showing that the attack against you has no foundation whatever and the other is by endeavoring to hit the other fellow if you can. That is the position I take with respect to this matter. I would not have said what I said but for the circumstances to which I have alluded. I consider that this matter would all have been thrashed out when the report of the Insurance Commission came in; then anybody who had anything to say against me should do so, and if I had anything to say against any gentleman on the other side of the House that is the time I should choose to say it and I was going to say it too. (Cheers.)

Liberal Caused the Trouble.

But, this action was precipitated by the action of the hon. member for Yale-Cariboo who last year began it and who has kept it up this year. I beg to say, Mr. Speaker, that I do not consider that I have anything to apologize for under the circumstances. I simply say this that if I had not been roused to anger I probably would not have said what I did say, but

what I said was the result of the attack which was made upon me, an attack entirely unwarranted and unjustified in every respect. That is the position I take with respect to this matter and I quite agree with the right hon. leader of the House that the time to thresh this whole matter out will be when the report of the Insurance Commission comes in. Then, whatever action it is necessary to take I shall take in order to protect myself. (Cheers.)

Speech Delivered by
G. W. FOWLER, M. P.,
 Kings and Albert, N. B.,
 April 11, 1907, in Dominion House of Commons.

The Minister of Finance estimated that the expense of the Insurance Commission would amount to \$105,000 at least, and a vote of \$75,000 was asked. Thereupon a discussion arose upon the commissioners report and after Mr. Foster had addressed the House, Mr. Fowler presented the following speech for the consideration of the House, during the delivery of which he was listened to from both sides of the House with the closest attention:—

Exposes Political Plot.

Mr. Fowler on rising said: Mr. Chairman, before the item passes I have a few words to say with respect to the subject-matter of the item, because to some extent—to some slight extent—my name has been mentioned in connection with the matters that formed the subject of the investigation by this famous, or infamous, depending on your point of view, commission.

I do not know why I was selected as the victim of a certain political plot that was hatched not very far from this chamber during the latter part of the last session of this House. (Loud applause.) I should have thought, Sir, that the humble position which I occupy in the ranks of my party would have relieved me from being selected as one of the victims, but, Sir, I do not suppose that he parties to this plot—I might call it—this scheme, cared particularly about including me among the victims. They were after higher game than the modest and humble member for Kings-Albert. (Hear, hear.) They wished to destroy the reputation and political usefulness of one of the ablest and one of the purest men who has ever graced the public life of this country. And, Sir, if I were to look about me for any person who was responsible for this scheme I would not have very far to seek. It is not necessary for me to bring forward an accusation or to name the individual because that individual has named himself. (Loud cheers.)

Insurance Report Tissue of Lies.

I propose briefly to give a history of the two transactions in which I was concerned that were discussed by this commission and that were in

cluded in this report which contains the greatest number of falsehoods and misrepresentations to its bulk of any document or book that I have ever seen in my life. The whole of this report, as far as it concerns myself, is one tissue of falsehoods and misrepresentations which can easily be shown by anyone who will take the trouble to go through the evidence—evidence which was adduced without giving me an opportunity of cross examination which I would have had if this matter had been brought up in a court or law. (Cries of shame.) Well, Sir, I said I would give as briefly and as succinctly as I can the true history of these transactions.

Explains Ordinary Business Deal.

I, in company with some other gentlemen, some of whom were members of this House and some of whom were not, obtained an option from the Canadian Pacific Company for a purchase of a block of 230,000 acres of land at \$3.50 per acre. We went into the open market and purchased at the market price. Was there anything wrong in that?

Asked no Special Favors.

We were not looking for Government favours. We were not privileged as supporters of the Government to get special favour from them. No, Sir, there is no parallel between the transaction in which we were engaged a transaction in which any member of this House or any citizen of this country would be justified in engaging, and transactions such as the Robins irrigation scheme, or the Galway ranch, or any of those schemes which have been discussed this session as well as last session and which the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Aylesworth) has supported and defended. (Prolonged applause.) These transactions were transactions with a corporation. It is true. But hon. gentlemen say: Oh, it was with a corporation that comes before this House to obtain certain benefits and privileges and therefore we have no right to deal with it.

Inconsistent Conditions Shown.

Did anyone ever hear of any such argument or doctrine ever having been put forward before? If that were so, by what right would any man holding stock in the Canadian Pacific Railway become a member of this House? Has anyone ever questioned his right to vote? Has anyone ever questioned his right to vote upon matters directly affecting the railway of which he is a large stockholder and director? In the senate we have two gentlemen also connected with that railway and we have in the senate a gentleman connected with the Grand Trunk Pacific. Yet nobody questions their right to vote and to take part in the deliberations of this House or the other House in connection with these matters.

Irrelevant Interruption.

At this point in Mr. Fowler's speech, an ill-timed interruption occurred, by reason of the member for St. Marys, Montreal, interpolating the following:—

Mr. Mederic Martin, Montreal, St. Marys.—They did not take shares with the money of the Government as you have done with your corporation.

Mr. Fowler—I do not understand that gentleman; he is not familiar with English.

Mr. Mederic Martin—I will get up and say it.

Mr. Fowler—That would be still worse for my understanding of it, so far as I am concerned. He says something about money of a corporation.

Mr. Mederic Martin.—No, money of the Government; they did not, like you have done, use the money of that society to buy your shares when the money did not belong to you.

Charge Branded as False.

Mr. Fowler—What this gentleman says is absolutely false, so far as I am concerned, and I challenge that gentleman to make any charge against me. (Great uproar and Conservative cheers.)

Some hon. members—Order.

Mr. Fowler—What are those burdocks on the back benches calling 'order' for; have they a pain. (Renewed uproar and cheers.)

Mr. Bennett—The Minister of Justice is calling 'order.'

Mr. Fowler—The Minister of Justice is calling 'order'; for what reason? If the Minister of Justice wants to call 'order', let him rise in his place like a man—

Some hon. members—Order. Take it back.

Baits Minister of Justice.

Mr. Fowler—Have we fallen so low, Sir, in this House that the Minister of Justice, like an irresponsible back bencher, is afraid to rise in his place? Is that what we have come to in the House of Commons?

Mr. Aylesworth—I rise to order.

Some hon. members—Order.

Mr. Aylesworth—I ask if it is in order for a member of this committee to accuse another member of saying what is false and untrue?

Mr. Bergcron—When it is false, what other words can you use.

Mr. Fowler—Is it right for a member of this committee to be permitted to say that I took money belonging to any society?

Mr. Mederic Martin—That is not the way I have mentioned the language.

Some hon. members—Let him withdraw it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker—The hon. member for Kings and Albert (Mr. Fowler) knows the rules of the House. I did not understand quite distinctly what the hon. member for St. Marys (Mr. Martin) said, but I understood the member for Kings and Albert to say that what he said was untrue so far as he was concerned.

Mr. Fowler—So it is.

Mr. Foster—So it is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker—The hon. member for Kings and Albert knows that a statement made in the House by a member of the House cannot be qualified as false per se.

Mr. Fowler—Am I to understand, Mr. Chairman, that a member is to be allowed to use language in this House—

Mr. Deputy Speaker—The allegation may be declared to be unfounded, but the language to be used must be parliamentary.

Repels Charge as False, Scandalous and Untrue.

Mr. Fowler—Do I understand that the member for St. Marys (Mr. Martin) is to be permitted to make an accusation against me which I know is absolutely untrue, which there is not the slightest scintilla of evidence to support, which as a matter of fact, is absolutely false, scandalous and untrue; and am I to sit here and not say it is untrue? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker—You have the right to deny the allegation.

Mr. Foster—That is what he did, and that is what the Minister of Justice says he has no right to do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. I understand that what the Minister of Justice objects to is in the form of the language used by the hon. member (Mr. Fowler.)

Insists on Free Speech.

Mr. Fowler—He cannot put the gag on us today. (Cheers.)

Mr. Foster—It is not any royal commission today.

Some hon. members—Make the member for St. Marys take it back.

Mr. Fowler—It is not worth while paying attention to him.

Mr. Mederic Martin—I withdraw nothing. (Uproar renewed.)

Mr. Foster—I think the member for St. Marys should be compelled to withdraw an accusation against a brother member which is declared to be scandalous, false and untrue.

Some hon. members—Hear, hear.

Mr. Mederic Martin—If you permit me, I will explain in French: On me per mettra d'expliquer en français ce que j'ai dit. Quand l'honorable député a fait des insinuations que certains ministres du gouvernement a valent des actions dans certaines compagnies de chemin de fer, j'ai dit que s'ils possédaient ces actions elles n'étaient pas achetées avec l'argent du gouvernement, et qu'ils n'avaient pas agi comme certains individus qui ont acheté des actions avec l'argent des forestiers à leur propre bénéfice. I can mention it again in English if you like.

Mr. Fowler—I have some little knowledge of both languages, and so far as I can follow the gentleman, I understand him to say that the member for Kings and Albert—

Mr. Mederic Martin—No, no. I did not mention any member for Kings.

Mr. Fowler—Well, you turned to me and you referred to me.

Mr. Taylor—Whom do you refer to then?

Fowler Challenges Liberals.

Mr. Fowler—If that hon. member, (Mr. Mederic Martin,) or if any other hon. member, either on that side of the House or in the colony over here, accuses me of that, I say right here and now that it is absolutely false, scandalous and untrue, and I defy him to prove it and I challenge him to the proof. (Prolonged Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Sam Hughes—They won't take up your challenge.

Mr. Fowler—I defy them to take up the challenge. (Cheers.)

Mr. Foster—The words of the member for St. Marys should be taken down.

Some hon. members—Take them down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker—The explanation given by the member for St. Marys is that he has laid down a general principle, and that he has not applied these words to the member for Kings.

Mr. R. L. Borden.—Then they are absolutely irrelevant and impertinent as well.

Mr. Foster—The first statement made by the member for St. Marys should be taken down.

Mr. Mederic Martin.—I used the words generally.

Mr. Taylor—Who did you apply them to then?

Mr. Fowler.—The member for St. Marys does not want to sneak out on that ground. I ask him to say to whom he does apply the words. (Cheers.)

Mr. Foster—I move that the first words uttered by the member for St. Marys be taken down, and made a matter of record.

Mr. Fielding—I was not in the House at the time, but unless the request were made at the moment they cannot be taken down.

Mr. Bergeron.—He has repeated the same words in French afterwards.

Mr. Fielding—When I came into the chamber the hon. member for Kings and Albert was speaking, so that there must have been an intervening proceeding.

Some hon. members—No.

Mr. Foster.—It was the same proceeding. Take down the words.

Mr. Deputy Speaker.—The member for St. Marys made a statement very indistinctly, which I did not understand the purport of; he has since explained he had no intention of attacking the member for Kings, and that he merely laid down a general principle. No objection having been taken immediately, as the rule requires, I think it is too late now.

Mr. R. L. Borden.—Objection was taken immediately by the member for Kings and Albert, who declared the statement absolutely untrue, false and scandalous. He may not have used the word 'scandalous' at first, but he declared them false and untrue, and then he was called to order by the Minister of Justice, and then the member for—I don't know his constituency.

Some hon. members—St. Marys.

Mr. R. L. Borden.—Then the member for St. Marys was called upon to withdraw. The member for Kings and Albert having repeated his statement that the charge was false and untrue, that the member for St. Marys rose and made certain remarks in French of a general character. As I understand he did not then apply the words—although he did in the first instance—to the member for Kings and Albert, but he purported to be laying down a general principle; that it is improper for any hon. gentleman to use, for the purpose of his own profit, moneys belonging to a corporation with which he is connected in a fiduciary capacity. Then the member for St. Marys was called to withdraw. He does not withdraw and my hon. friend from North Toronto asks that his words be taken down. There was no intervening proceeding; the whole matter having been under consideration from the first.

Mr. Fielding—I quite realize the disadvantage of not having been present at the moment the incident arose, but even on the statement of the leader of the opposition the member for Kings and Albert did not ask the words to be taken down at the time. He proceeded to a discussion of the subject and to attack the member for St. Marys for what he regarded as an impropriety, which is not a demand to take the words down.

Mr. Bergeron—The words were repeated afterwards.

Denounced Lying Statement.

Mr. Foster—This lament is utterly powerless if its proceedings are to be conducted as it is proposed now to conduct them. If this plea put forward by the Minister of Finance is allowed to avail in this House, then I say that you can never take down the words that a member maliciously states here to the detriment of a fellow-member. There is no way by which the rule can be operative unless you have the right to have the words taken down before any proceedings of a different nature have intervened. There is a scandalous and lying assertion made by a member of this House.

Some hon. members—Hear, hear.

Some hon. members.—Order.

Mr. Foster.—So declared to be by the member against whom it is made. I ask as a member of this House that the words of the hon. member, (Mr. Martin), be taken down.

During the discussion, which proceeded angrily. It must be remembered that Mr. Fowler retained the floor, and held it throughout the storm which pervaded the chamber. At this moment members from both sides were

calling order, order. Mr. Aylesworth, Minister of Justice, was on his feet, gestulating, his face suffused with passion, and menacing the opposition with his closed fist.

There Stands the Conspirator.

Mr. Aylesworth—Mr. Chairman—

Some hon. members—Sit down. (Cheers and uproar.)

Mr. Foster.—There stands the conspirator. (Loud applause and uproar.)

Mr. Aylesworth.—I rise to order, Mr. Chairman. I ask if it is parliamentary language for any member of parliament to characterize the statement of another as a lying statement.

Mr. Henderson.—Mr. Chairman, I object decidedly to the Minister of Justice shaking his closed fist at me or at any other member of the House.

Mr. Patterson.—In common with all the other members of the House I was at the disadvantage of not knowing exactly what the hon. member for St. Marys said.

Some hon. members.—Oh, oh.

Mr. Patterson.—I say so. I have no doubt that the hon. member for Kings and Albert thought that he was making a remark directed specially to him. Speaking for myself, I am not able to say what he did say.

Mr. Sam Hughes—Take it down.

Mr. Patterson.—I do not think we are in a position to take down the words if we wanted to. If what the hon. gentleman has said in French, which unfortunately I do not understand, is what he said he meant to say, and if it differs from what he actually said before, then by the parliamentary rule, the later statement is a virtual withdrawal of his previous statement.

Call of Time Saves Liberals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker.—My ruling as I said once before is this. The hon. member for St. Marys spoke very indistinctly. The hon. member for Kings and Albert called attention to his words. The hon. member for St. Marys division subsequently gave an explanation in which he said that he had made no personal attack on the hon. member for Kings and Albert. I consider, therefore, that on that point the explanation of the hon. member for St. Marys should be accepted. With regard to taking down the words the rule is this:

If the Speaker rules that the expression complained of is not parliamentary, a member will not be permitted to move that the words be taken down.

Therefore the incident is closed. With regard to the objection raised by the hon. Minister of Justice, the hon. member for North Toronto is an experienced parliamentarian and I think that he knows that the word 'lying' sometimes exceeds the bounds of parliamentary debate.

Mr. Foster.—It is an essential element of it sometimes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker.—In the meantime, it being one o'clock, I leave the Chair. (Prolonged Conservative cheers.)

At one o'clock committee took recess.

Fowler Challenges Deaf Ears.

Committee resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. Fowler.—Almost immediately before the committee took recess at one o'clock, I was discussing the purchase of a considerable tract of land in the Northwest Territories, which was made by myself and some other gentlemen, several of whom were members of parliament, from the Canadian Pacific Railway. And I made the statement that although we were mem-

bers of parliament we had the same right as other men to buy lands in the Northwest or anywhere else from the Canadian Pacific Railway or any other corporation. I make the statement now that we purchased those lands—and I challenge proof to the contrary—at a fair market price, that we received no special consideration from the Canadian Pacific Railway, that we asked for none and received none, that we bought the land for the same price and for the same terms exactly as they could have been bought at by any other group of men or any single individual, and that we had received no favor of any kind whatsoever from the Canadian Pacific Railway or any other corporation in that connection. I not only make that statement but I say that the evidence taken before this Insurance Commission absolutely bears it out, and I challenge contradiction.

Corroborated by C. P. R. Official.

Mr. Griffin, land commissioner of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was brought in as a witness, and my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition yesterday read his evidence. Mr. Griffin swore positively that we did not get any favors of any kind from the Canadian Pacific Railway, that we bought these lands in the open market at the prices then asked, and that although we bought a very large tract, 200,000 acres, we paid the same rate as those who were buying retail lots when we might have been given and were entitled to expect a wholesale rate. He swore also that he gave us no special consideration and that he had no suggestion from anyone to give us any special consideration, but treated us as he would anybody else. I think have sufficiently disposed of the purchase of the land.

Shows up Nigger in the Fence.

I do not understand why that purchase should be a transaction which the Insurance Commission had any right to consider, but the reason for their investigation was amply shown by my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition yesterday. He then explained why it was this whole question of the purchase of these lands by us was taken up by that commission. What do we find? Here is a commission appointed for the purpose of investigating the affairs of the insurance companies, and following out that line they took up the affairs of the Independent Order of Foresters. Then what did they do? They said, we have the right to investigate the affairs of the Union Trust Company because it is a subsidiary company of the Foresters. But they did not stop there. They went further and said, we are going to investigate the affairs of the Great West Land Company. But that was not a company which was subsidiary to the Foresters. It was simply a company to which the Union Trust Company had loaned a certain amount, taking a guaranty secured by those lands, yet they claimed the right to investigate the affairs of the Great West Land Company.

Commissioners Exceeded Their Powers.

Having thus strained their rights almost to the breaking point, one would not have thought that they would have claimed the right to go any further. But they not only insisted on investigating the affairs of the Great West Land Company, but they claimed the right to investigate the affairs of the men who had sold land to that company. And why? Because among these men there happened to be some Conservative members of Parliament. That was the only reason. It was simply the carrying out of that nefarious plot, the chief design of which was the driving from public life one of the brightest minds this Canadian parliament has ever had. Another object was to try and see if they could not fasten something

against the hon. leader of the opposition. Sir, the leader of the opposition is a man whose character shines high above that of his traducers, whose character is held in high esteem by every section of our people.

Derouined His Traducers.

But, Sir, these traducers of honest men's reputations, these mud slingers did their best to drag his honored name into the dirt but were not successful. Well, we purchased those lands. And having obtained an option upon them, we carried out that option by making the payments agreed upon, and then we endeavored to sell them. We did not propose to farm those lands ourselves. As an hon. gentleman near me says that a farm of 200,000 acres would be a pretty big one. We bought those lands to sell them again, and we hoped to sell them at a profit. We were not in this transaction for our health but expected to make a profit out of the sale. It is not necessary for me to go into the details of the sale. The sale was made at an advance of \$1 per acre. That was not a very large profit when we consider the fact that a railway was to go right through that district which would enhance the value of the land. But whether the profit be large or small, what right had this Insurance Commission to investigate that transaction.

Star Chamber Inquisition.

Even supposing that I and my colleagues with me had abused our positions as members of parliament and had put pressure on the Canadian Pacific Railway to get these lands at a lower rate, what right had the Insurance Commission to investigate that matter? If it were a mere Insurance Commission, it had no such right; but if it were a Star Chamber Commission I would understand their claiming it. That is why they did claim it. Something has been said about the Canada Life Insurance Company. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Aylesworth) tried to improve the impartiality and honesty of these commissioners because forsooth they had been compelled to make certain strictures with respect to the Canada Life, the president of which is known as a Liberal. (Cheers.)

Contrast Treatment to Liberals.

I would direct the attention of the committee to the contrast between the report with respect to the Canada Life and the report with respect to the Foresters. What investigation was made into the subsidiary companies of the Canada Life? None whatever, notwithstanding the fact that some of the people with whom the Canada Life had dealings were very closely associated in business and very closely connected by relationship with the President of the Canada Life. But, Sir, every dealing by any subsidiary company, and every company with which a subsidiary company had dealings was investigated in the case of the Foresters. With exceptions of course.

No Tories in this Company.

There was one company that was not investigated very much. I wonder why? This was the Independent Lumber Company, 75 per cent. of whose stock was owned by the Foresters and 25 per cent. nominally owned by another party. Every dollar of the money in the Independent Lumber Company was put in by the Foresters or the Union Trust Company—I think by the Foresters direct. But there was no investigation into that. Why? Why, there were no Tory members of parliament in it—there was no object in investigating it. (Loud cheers.)

Illustrates Commission's Partiality.

You speak about this commission and the course and conduct of it. From

the very first they showed a deliberate intention and desire to blacken the names and injure the reputations of men who happened to be of a different political stripe from themselves. Take my own case, for instance: I was in the city of Toronto in the latter part of August or the first part of September on my way west with certain members of my family. I was going west on business, important private business of my own. I was served with a summons to appear before the commission. I was served on Monday night about 10 o'clock to appear on Tuesday morning and give evidence. So, on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock I went up to the commission to give evidence. I did not know what evidence they could possibly want from me that would be pertinent to the matter in hand; but I had been served with a summons and I think I had also been presented with the magnificent sum of \$2 for attendance. When I arrived I found the commission engaged examining into the affairs of the Home Life Association. I remained a couple of hours, and by that time it became quite clear to me that it would take considerable time before the commission would be through with the Home Life Association. Besides, I knew that, before they could desire my services as a witness, they must spend a great deal of time with the officers of the Independent Order of Foresters.

Went About His Business.

I did not propose to stay in the city of Toronto and hang around day after day, and day after day, neglecting my private business merely to suit the convenience of that commission. So I wrote these gentlemen a letter. I told them that I had been served with a summons and had appeared in answer, but that they were still engaged with the affairs of the Home Life and likely to be engaged for some time before they could need my services. If they ever needed them; I said I was on my way west on important business, but would return as soon as possible in order that I might give my evidence if they required it. I went west. Think of it! Was it not an awful thing to treat this royal—royal, mark the word, Mr. Chairman—this Royal Commission in such a contemptuous manner. (Cheers.)

Mr. Bennett.—Why didn't you go to California? (Loud laughter.)

Hot Reference to Hyman's Absence.

Mr. Fowler—Because to go to California would have meant to carry myself outside the jurisdiction. Moreover my nerves were in first-class condition; I did not require the sort of treatment that people receive in California for shattered nerves. I went west and when I was ready to return I returned.

Slanders of Hired Grit Press.

I may say that I paid this much deference to the commission—that I got through the business that I had to transact as rapidly as possible; in fact I neglected some of my business in order to get back, but I had been watching the daily papers and knew the misrepresentations, lies and slanders put forward by the hired grit press, and wanted to get back as soon as possible to show the commission what the facts were. When I left Revelstoke on my way east, I telegraphed Mr. Shepley that I was coming. I had to remain a day at Winnipeg on business, but, when I left Winnipeg, I advised Mr. Shepley by wire of that fact. I did not know but that his nerves might become shattered worrying over my non-appearance, and I wanted to assure him that I was coming east, as fast as steam would carry me, to give evidence before the commission. I reached North Bay. Our train had been very much delayed, and we missed the connection at North Bay and had to wait until late in the afternoon. I met a gentleman who had a telegram in his hand and he was looking for Mr. Fowler.

Dirty Methods Employed.

Whether he had seen some of the cartoons in the newspapers I do not know, but apparently he thought I was the person he was looking for. He asked me if that was my name, and when I told him that it was, he showed me a telegram he had from Mr. Shepley. That telegram was a peremptory order to George W. Fowler to appear that afternoon before the commission. Well, Sir, the commission and I were several hundred miles apart. I said to this gentleman: 'You telegraph to your friend Mr. Shepley, and tell him, that unfortunately there is no airship line between North Bay and Toronto, but I will be there as soon as the train gets there.' Our train arrived at Toronto about ten o'clock that evening. In the rotunda of the hotel I was accosted by a gentleman who presented me with a document. He said he was the secretary of the commission. I told him that I had already been subpoenaed.

Mr. Fowler Says Some Things.

He said: "This is not a subpoena, it is something more." Then, Mr. Chairman, I made a few remarks of a similar character to those you may find in a 'Globe' editorial the day after the pious and hypocritical editor of that paper had preached with great unction. (Laughter.) The newspapers said something about this and we had a good audience the next day in the court. Mr. Chairman, I arrived in the court, and strange to say, I found that I had to wait for some time before I could give my evidence because they were not done hearing witnesses. And yet Mr. Shepley, day after day, had gone before that commission, and in order to make out that the hon. member for Kings (Mr. Fowler) was trying to avoid giving evidence, was away in hiding, had made statements to the effect that if I did not put in an appearance the most terrible calamities would befall me.

Mr. Fowler's Alleged Contempt.

Pure grandstand play, Mr. Chairman—pure grandstand play. The document I had received was a summons to show cause why I should not be punished for contempt. Contempt of this commission! In the courtroom there was a long platform and on it three people—

Mr. Bergeron—Did you take a photograph of them?

Fowler Describes Senile Trinity.

Mr. Fowler—A mental photograph. There were three people, three old men occupying chairs on that platform. Three old men in a row. The outside men looked to me like men who had crossed the border line between manhood and dotage.

Hiring for Liberal Dirty Work.

The central was a younger figure. And this was the redoubtable MacTavish, this was the hiring of this government, the professional commissioner, who is appointed by this government when there is dirty work to do and who is ready to sign any report that is prepared for him by the Crown Prosecutor.

Wanted Him Punished.

Well, Sir, there was present also a certain rotund gentleman, the chief inquisitor, the modern Torquemada, Mr. Shepley, K. C. Mr. Shepley, K. C., when he got through with the witnesses, which took about an hour or so, then addressed himself to the commission, and he moved that Mr. George W. Fowler be punished for contempt of this commission. He did not say what style of punishment should be inflicted, whether I was to be plunged into

boiling oil, or have my hand cut off, or have my head cut off, or be imprisoned in the tower. (Loud and continued laughter.)

An hon. member—Or be put in the stocks. (Cheers.)

All the Contempt He Felt.

Mr. Fowler greatly amused the House by his description of the two old men and the younger grit hireling who had always been ready at the call of the grit government to do the dirty work of the party. These three formed the famous Royal Commission on Insurance. The House was convulsed with laughter as the speaker alluded to the contempt he entertained for the commission, and cheers shook the building as he announced that incarceration for the rest of his natural life would not have purged him from the contempt he felt for the commission and all its works.

Mr. Fowler—But he suggested that I should be punished for contempt. Well, I made a few remarks in reply, and Mr. Shepley's comments on my remarks was to the effect that if anything had been wanting to exhibit the contempt which the member for Kings felt for the commission, he had supplied it in the remarks he had just made—and in that I think Mr. Shepley struck the nail on the head. Mr. Chairman, if this commission had, in its wisdom or lack of wisdom, decided that I should be punished for contempt, and if they had decided to make the punishment fit the crime, and to make the duration of my punishment, if it were imprisonment, commensurate with the amount of contempt felt for them! Sir, all the years that have elapsed since the Christian era commenced would not have been sufficient for me to purge my offence. (Loud cheers.) Sir, they would have had to go back into the dim ages of the past, and I doubt whether eternity would have been enough. Well, Sir, the commission after a while got down to business and I was on the stand. I regret that I have got a very bad cold.

Mr. Bennett.—Take some wine.

Business Deals Defended.

Mr. Fowler—Mr. Chairman as I went upon the stand there were two matters in which the commission seemed desirous of getting some information from me: One was with respect to the sale of these Canadian Pacific Railway lands, and the second was with respect to some timber limits in British Columbia. They seemed to have got the impression that there was something very wrong connected with the sale of these lands. I think they had already the impression removed that there was anything wrong in the purchase of them; but they seemed to think that there was something wrong in connection with the sale of them, and the chief offence of which they seemed desirous to find me and my colleagues in that affair guilty, was that we had improperly and unlawfully withheld a certain portion of this block of land from the purchasers.

Evidence Supports Contention.

Well, Sir, if any hon. gentlemen will read the evidence, if any gentleman will examine the exhibits he will see how absurd such a pretension was. We sold the lands to the Great West Land Company, or to a syndicate of gentlemen who afterwards transferred them to the Great West Land Company. They were described by metes and bounds, they were set out section, half section and quarter section, as the case might be. There could be no possible misunderstanding, no possible mistake with respect to the amount of lands which this syndicate of gentlemen, the Great West Land Company, had bought from the Pope Fowler syndicate. There could be no possibility of a mistake or misunderstanding, because attached to the agreement that was entered into between us and them, was a schedule consisting of several pages

and containing details, quarter section by quarter section, half section by half section, full section by full section, with the actual acreage of the land which we sold to the Great West Land Company.

Beyond Scope of Inquiry.

Now, Sir, what had that to do with insurance matters? Absolutely nothing at all to do with them. But they thought that there was a chance to show that the member for Kings-Albert (Mr. Fowler) that the member for Prince (Mr. Lefurgey) and the member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) had humiliated these gentlemen, this Great West Land Company, by professing to sell them 200,000 acres and being paid for 200,000 acres, when in point of fact they had only sold them 193,000 acres. Sir, as I say, this agreement and that which was attached to it contained an actual statement of the lands that were sold there was not one word in the agreement of sale to show that we were transferring or selling to these people all the land which we had bought from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, not a word. There was a copy of the agreement between us and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company showing that we had a right to take 200,000 acres, there was a schedule attached showing there was only 193,000 acres. Would not these men be bound to inquire if we had professed to sell them 200,000 acres and the schedule showed only 193,000? The contention was absurd, and I think I was justified in saying, as I did say to Mr. Shepley that nobody but a jackass would put forward such contentions. Well, Sir, this matter has been discussed so often that it is not necessary for my purpose to go into this question of the Great West Land purchase and these lands that were sold. I have only this to say, that we bought 200,000 acres in one block; and afterwards Mr. Pope and myself bought 17,000 odd acres in another block, and some of them we sold to the Great West people, some to an English syndicate, and some of these lands we still retain, belonging to all the members of the syndicate. That is the position of affairs with respect to that matter. (Cheers.)

Timber Limit Deal Explained.

Now we take up the timber limit. Away back in October, 1903, I obtained an option from Mr. Peter Ryan on certain property, timber limits and a mill, that he had in the province of British Columbia; I obtained that option not at the request, not at the dictation, not under instructions from the Union Trust Company, or from any other individual except myself, absolutely without their knowledge, absolutely without any obligation to these people with respect to the disposal of that property. On the 24th of October, 1903, on the very day that we got that property, I gave an option on it to one James Harper. Look in the exhibits, and you will find a copy of that option I gave on the 24th of October, 1903. Mr. Harper was unable to carry out the deal. He fell down, as we say, and about the middle of December, which would be about seven weeks after I had taken the option, I went to the Union Trust Company to see whether they would take the matter up, to see whether I could sell this property to them. Surely up to this time I was not the agent of these people.

Was His Personal Property.

Up to the 15th or 16th of December, when I first went there, when they absolutely knew nothing of this thing, the matter had never been brought before them, surely I was not the agent? How did I become the agent—the agent to dispose of what?—the agent to dispose of my own property. That is what it meant. That option belonged to me, it did not belong to any living soul but myself, and whatever it was worth it was mine. How

did I become the agent, I would like to know? The first minute which is made in respect to this matter is on the 19th of December, when there is an entry in the books of the Union Trust Company as follows:

Minutes of Union Trust Company.

"A proposition was laid before the directors by the manager in reference to providing money for the purchase and working of certain timber berths in British Columbia as described in a memorandum of agreement entered into between Peter Ryan of Toronto and George W. Fowler of Sussex, N. B., giving an option to the latter by the former, and the manager was instructed to continue the negotiations and secure the reports of the examiners now upon the property, on the understanding that if the reports are satisfactory the Trust Company will advance the money required to purchase the property and take a controlling interest therein."

Report Tissue of Falsehoods.

I want to say right here and now that this report, in so far as it relates to my doings in connection with that land company and in connection with that timber company is a tissue of falsehoods and misrepresentations and the evidence absolutely shows it. Here is what it says with respect to agency: (Cheers, cries of shame.)

"Fowler in his testimony asserts very strongly that he was the out and out owner of an option upon the property before he approached the Trust Company, and that he approached the company as proposing vendor, and at arm's length."

It says just what I said, that I approached the company as vendor and at arm's length. Surely, if I owned this option for seven weeks before I went near these people, I approached them as the vendor and at arm's length. Surely I was not their agent in getting hold of this thing. It says:

"On the other hand, Mr. Foster and Mr. Stevenson speak of Mr. Fowler as having entered upon the negotiations for the purchase of the property in question for all those who were expected to be interested."

Was Not Agent, but Owner.

The evidence of Mr. Foster does not bear that out at all. Mr. Stevenson does not swear to it either. He says: I understand so and so and so and so. Mr. Stevenson's evidence is very hazy indeed upon that point. But I do not care for the evidence of these people. Does that make me an agent? The documents show whether I am an agent or not. Let the documents speak. In every case I am the vendor. What happened? I did not go to these people and try to get them interested in buying up this property. They were considering the matter and I sent men to British Columbia to make reports.

Statement False and Untrue.

Certain men went to British Columbia to make reports because these people had confidence in them. But, who paid them? This report says that the Union Trust paid them, and I say it is absolutely false and untrue. For the examination, for the cruising of the Kamloops property, the first property that is purchased, the Union Trust Company never paid a dollar for expenses or anything else. For the cruising of the Okanagan property which they bought afterwards and with the sale of which I had nothing to do any more than that I was going to be interested in the company, they did pay certain expenses. That is the bill that appears there, and it is not for the Kamloops property. All the expenses in connection with the cruis-

ing of this property, with sending two men out there, their time and everything else, were paid out of my own pocket.

Will Defend Transaction Anywhere.

I am prepared to defend here or anywhere else that transaction. I say that property was mine. On the 24th of January my option would be up. Search the books of the Union Trust Company and find if you can any resolution or minute with respect to this matter up to this date, except one entry on the 19th of December. Question the officers and the parties interested and ask them under oath if they will say when I purchased this property, when on the 24th of January I took up my option and went to Mr. Peter Ryan's lawyer, Mr. Levesconte, and instructed him to make out an agreement of sale. I had any instructions from the Union Trust Company or any other man with respect to this matter. I went and carried out the terms of my option.

Bought According to Option.

I accepted the property and on the 26th of January, 1901, I became the absolute owner of the property subject only to the payment of the price. It was mine. There is not a resolution, there is not a thing to connect me with the Union Trust Company up to that time, except that we had certain informal talks and certain negotiations were going on. There is not one scratch of the pen to hold me to any bargain with the Union Trust Company. I hold that the property was absolutely mine. There was not one scratch of the pen to hold me or to hold the Union Trust Company or any officer of that company or to compel them to carry out any negotiations which had been going on or to make them enter into any agreement or contract. I was absolutely free and the property was absolutely mine. That is the position I took before that commission, that is the position I take to-day; the property was mine and I had a right to that property. If I made a profit out of it I am thankful. I am also thankful to say that the people to whom I sold made a profit, and if it had been handled with any kind of business management at all the profit would have been infinitely greater than it was.

Enormous Profits to Purchasers.

What are the facts? I want in connection with that matter to refer to something that the Minister of Justice said in his speech in answer to my hon. friend from North Toronto. For the three properties that we bought we paid \$140,000; \$225,000 was what was paid for the Kamloops property \$30,000 for the Shuswap property and \$175,000 for the Okanagan property. These properties have been sold since and sold in a hurry, and they have brought \$650,000, a profit of \$210,000. Let me say, sir, that the Kamloops property, the original property, of which berth 237 was exchanged for the Shuswap lands, could not be bought to-day for a million dollars. It is one of the most magnificent timber properties in the province of British Columbia, and, sir, I had one quarter interest in it—not 650 shares, as stated here, but 1,250 shares in that whole property. And yet my interest and the interest of the other individual owners, has been sacrificed, and I

Abused by Hireling Press.

have been abused by this same hireling press from one end of the country to the other. That is a clean business transaction (cheers); I am prepared to defend it here, now, and anywhere. Here is what this commission report says with respect to the expenses, page 148:

Denounces Another Untruth.

"The option referred to in the minute is the option referred to in (4) and the 'examiners' then upon the property were McCormick and Irwin, who were sent out and their expenses paid by the Trust Company."

I say that is absolutely untrue, and there is absolutely no evidence to support it. Here is another statement on page 148 of the report:

"On January 26, 1904, Mr. Fowler again saw Mr. Ryan."

I had seen Mr. Ryan several times before. The 26th of January, 1904, was the day on which we finally closed the agreement of sale and signed it.

"—and negotiations were resumed, the object being to close with Ryan upon a basis which would be satisfactory to the Union Trust Company, which was then expected to finance the transaction."

Allusion to Lying Report.

The satisfaction of the Union Trust Company had absolutely nothing to do with this transaction. If the Union Trust Company had declined to take the matter up I proposed still to carry out the contract with Mr. Ryan. I was bound to do it. I had to do it. I was liable to him for the purchase price of that property, and I would have to pay it. And yet, this commission, in a matter with which it should have had nothing to do, made this absolutely lying report in order to try and injure me in some way. (loud cheers.) The report further says:

"Mr. Fowler does not pretend that he ever disclosed to the Trust Company either the real option on the larger property at \$200,000, nor the real bargain on the smaller property at \$170,000."

Foresters Made Big Profit.

I never told them, they never asked me, if they had asked me I would have told them. If the trust company did not see fit to take up the matter then they need not have done so. I wish they never had, because I certainly would have made very much more money out of it. There is one other point I want to refer to. The Minister of Justice had to admit, because the facts show it, that in every one of these transactions there was a very large profit embling to the Foresters.

Scores Minister of Justice.

But, said the Minister of Justice, what if it had been the other way? And what was the comparison he made? A comparison, sir, which a man occupying the position which the Minister of Justice occupies should not have made—I had almost used an unparliamentary word, but I am so careful on that point that I certainly will not use the word I intended to use. I will not borrow from the vocabulary of the Globe or the Montreal Star. I will use parliamentary language. I say, I was surprised at a gentleman occupying that high position, for it is a high position, it ought to be the fountain of justice, but how can we expect in this country to have a pure and limpid stream of undiluted justice flowing from such a source? Sir, it is absolutely impossible. And the Minister of Justice made that comparison, comparing the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster), a man the latchet of whose shoe the Minister of Justice is not worthy to tie; a man whose name will shine in the annals of this country with honor when the name of the Minister of Justice will be forgotten. The Minister of Justice dared to illustrate his point by using the name of a man who has recently been convicted, Mr. McGill, for misuse of the funds of a bank. (Shame.)

Members Call "Shame."

Mr. Fowler—I don't wonder that hon. gentlemen cry out "shame," when they realize that a man towards whom they should look with honor and respect would so abuse the position he occupies. But the Minister of Justice need not have gone so far afield; he could have made an illustration inside the ranks of his own party. Sir, there is sitting—there was sitting then within the sound of his voice, a gentleman who was a director of a bank that failed and failed disastrously. The Minister of Justice might have used him as an illustration. Sir, I do not know and I do not believe that anything improper attached to that director, any act of impropriety on his part, but sir it is a fact that the funds of the bank of which he was a director were dissipated and the widows and the orphans (about whom the Minister of Justice wept so feelingly) the widows and the orphans who had their money invested in that bank lost their all. The Minister of Justice might have taken that illustration, and it would have struck a little closer home. But, unfortunately, that sort of thing often happens.

Globe Man Lost Investors' Money.

Take the Globe newspaper, and the chief push of the Globe (as we may call him to adopt the language of the Star) the chief push of the Globe newspaper is a gentleman who was president of a company in which every investor lost every dollar he put in it. Is that a reproach? (Loud cheers.) According to the Minister of Justice it is a terrible reproach not to lose, but to make money. It is an awful thing because the funds of the Union Trust Company were used in what he called speculative investments, which made enormous profits for the Order of Foresters.

Contrasts It with Liberal Schemes.

But the Minister of Justice has not a word of condemnation for directors of banks who happen to be his own political friends, where the investors lost every dollar they put in it; not a word of condemnation for the chief owner of the Globe newspaper, who was president of a company in which the people who took stock lost every dollar—and, sir, moreover, if rumor is correct, in which interest dividends were paid out of capital. The Minister of Justice has not a word in respect to that, and yet as I understand, that venerable gentleman said he wondered how any defence could be made in connection with this transaction.

Okanagan Purchase Explained.

Now, sir, let us take the purchase of the Okanagan property. The Okanagan property was not purchased on my recommendation. It was not purchased on my instructions, but I went out with Mr. Hamilton, who was sent out especially to examine that property. Mr. Hamilton is one of the best experienced and most successful lumbermen in the province of Ontario, a man of thirty years experience in lumbering. Mr. Hamilton was sent out by the Kamloops Company to examine this Okanagan property in order to see whether it was worth the price which was asked for it. Mr. Hamilton made an exhaustive examination of that property, and he reported that the property was worth more than double the price asked. And here, it appears in this report as though there was some skin game in connection with it, because the report as to this property says:

"The total assets were placed at \$65,544.66, stock liability at \$50,000, and other debts at \$11,026.81, leaving profit and loss account at \$2,517.85."

Criticizes Report Again.

And the report intimates that here is something rotten in connection with this matter, because a property which had originally been bought for \$65,000 was now being sold for \$175,000. As a matter of fact, a large double-cutting hand-saw mill had been built since that purchase, and it was shown that over \$50,000 had been added to the expenditure upon that property. There is a profit in connection with that property. Is that an unusual thing in connection with timber limits in the west? Let me tell the committee something.

Contrasts With Government Deals.

Within three weeks of this very day, a timber limit is been sold by this government—put up for public tender and the highest tender got it; the government's course in the matter is absolutely straight and absolutely correct; no fault to find at all, everything is perfectly right in respect to it—but, sir, that property was bought for \$43,000 and within three weeks of this very day an option has been given on it for \$125,000. That is a profit of \$3 to \$1 and the property will be unquestionably sold under the option. In the short space of three weeks there is that profit, and here in the Okanagan case was a property bought a year and a half before for \$65,000 upon which some \$50,000 had been spent, and it was sold for \$175,000. It is only necessary to state these two cases.

Report In Furtherance of Plot.

And yet this commission found it necessary to report on these matters—why? Just, sir, carrying out the plot, that is all; just in furtherance of the original design, that is all; to try and see if they could not throw mud enough so that some of it might stick. (Cheers.)

Now, they take up this matter of paying for the Okanagan property. I went out, as I said, I had instructions from the company to get a written option for this property at a certain price. They took the cruisers out to examine the property, and when they were satisfied I took the option; and because the stockholders of the Okanagan Company were scattered, living in different parts of the country, I was requested to act as their attorney in collecting and transmitting the money from the Kamloops company to the various stockholders. I did that, and they are perfectly satisfied; they got their money. Why was it necessary for this report to contain nearly half a column on that point? What on earth had the Insurance Commission to do with the question whether or not these stockholders in the Okanagan company got their money?

Matter for Stockholders.

That is a matter for the Okanagan stockholders to settle with me. It certainly was not any business of the Insurance Commission when that money was paid for that property. Surely it was no longer the money of the Foresters, it was no longer the money of the trust company, it was no longer the money of the Kamloops company. Yet they tried to throw doubt on the question whether I had settled with the Okanagan people or not. What is the business of this country or this House whether I had or not?

Private Business is Sacred.

What, sir, is the private business of a man to be gone into, is it to be ascertained whether or not he has paid all his creditors, before he comes to this House? If so, there might be some vacant chairs here. Sir, the property qualification was abolished in this country many years ago, so

that a seat in this House should be open to every man, whether he was worth a dollar or not. Therefore I do not think that this House has anything to do with searching out these private matters, matters with which by the greatest stretch of the imagination the Insurance Commission could have no possible concern. (Cheers.)

Shuswap Property Explained.

Then they take up the purchase of the Shuswap property. We bought that property for \$40,000 three years ago, and the timber limits on it could not be bought to-day for \$200,000. It has most magnificent timber on it; it was a great buy. After we had agreed to buy this property, after the agreement to purchase had been signed between Mr. Shields and myself, Mr. Ryan told me that here was a commission coming to him in connection with that, and he would divide it with me. Mr. Ryan had owed me a considerable amount on the original purchase price, and he gave me an order on Mr. Shields only for the commission, but for an amount in excess of it. I took the thing as a payment on account, and if Mr. Ryan pays me the balance he will be very glad to share the \$25,000 with my friends.

(Hear, hear.)

Commissioners Never Wrote Report.

Mr. Fowler has consistently contended that the Insurance Commission was a plot for the purpose of ruining certain Conservative politicians, therefore, when he made the direct charge in the House that the commissioners never wrote a line of the report, it was expected that an immediate denial would be made. This was not the case. The accusation stood, and no man in the House denied it. The leader of the House, and the Minister of Justice were present, and although the latter had been publicly branded a few minutes before by Mr. Foster as "there stands the conspirator," no man uttered a word.

Now, Sir, I think I have gone pretty fully into these matters, but there are two or three things I would like to refer to. As to this report, we have these three commissioners. I have already described them to you, so that everybody must now know them pretty well. I am going to make the statement right here and now, that the commissioners never wrote a line in that report. I question very much whether they read it all through.

Commissioners Only Signed Report.

The only handwriting of the commissioners was their names signed: D. P. MacTavish, J. W. Langmuir, A. L. Kent. Now, sir, who is going to be paid for writing this report? Mr. Shepley wrote this report. He dictated it, probably, to a stenographer. It shows the master mind and the hand of Mr. Shepley all the way through. Mr. Shepley was carrying out his instructions.

Scheme to Blacken Tories.

Mr. Fowler concluded a most comprehensive and powerful speech by a vigorous protest against the government expending the money of the people for the sole and only purpose of ruining the political reputation of prominent Conservatives. He suggested that at least two-thirds of the sum asked should be paid out of the Grift corruption fund, and not out of the public treasury.

His instructions were to try and fasten something on these Tory members: if he could not fasten anything on them, then to throw just as much mud as he could. Mr. Shepley carried out his instructions to the letter, and he is to be paid \$100 a day besides a very large additional counsel fee. I

would suggest that about three-quarters or at least two-thirds—I will be moderate—of the money to be paid Mr. Shepley and these commissioners should be paid out of the Grit corruption fund, because the money was intended to be expended and was expended, for political purposes and political purposes only.

Enormous Cost of Commission.

We find besides that these three decrepit old men will be paid at the rate of \$30 a day for one and \$15 a day each for the other two for every day Mr. Shepley was writing this report. Mr. Shepley will be paid \$100 a day and Mr. Tilley, his curtain raiser, bottle holder—to borrow again the language of the Globe and the Star,—will be paid \$50 a day. (Shame.) For the days when Mr. Shepley and Mr. Tilley were engaged in preparing this report, these men, who had nothing to do with its preparation, who had never added or taken away a line, but simply signed what was put before them according to what they conceived to be their duty as hirelings of this government—these men will be paid as well. I do not think that there ever was in the whole political history of Canada a more notable instance of a political boomerang than this Royal Commission has proved.

Failed to Injure Mr. Borden.

Sir, they started out primarily to injure one political man and afterwards they thought they could get hold of another. The one is the trusted lieutenant and the other the honored leader of the Conservative party in this Dominion. (Loud cries of shame.) That was their object.

Eloquent Tribute to Mr. Foster.

They were going to drive the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) from public life. (Shame.) No longer would there be any need for them to fear his criticisms of their public acts. No longer was his invective to be hurled across the floor of this House and make these hon. gentlemen cower under the lash. He was to be driven out of public life, degraded and disgraced. But to-day, notwithstanding this campaign of calumny and abuse, the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) stands as high, if not higher, in the estimation not only of his party who are supporting him loyally, but in the estimation of all his honest countrymen. (Loud cheers.) And, after all that is the only thing a man need care about. He need not care what penny a line scribblers may say about him. If he is conscious that his course has been one of rectitude, honor and honesty, the people who know him best will still respect and honor him. That is the verdict he most deserves, that is the only verdict he need care for, and that is the verdict given the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster). (Cheers.)

For the present I have finished with this matter. If my throat were in better condition, I might perhaps give a few more interesting details; but under the circumstances I think it is nothing short of highway robbery to take the public money of this country and devote it to the purpose provided by this vote. * I repeat that at least two-thirds of that money should be paid out of the Grit corruption fund and not out of the public treasury. (Long and long continued Conservative cheers, during which Mr. Fowler resumed his seat.)

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