

H.F. McLeod's Flamboyant Speech on Southampton Ry.

Has Personal knowledge that Statements made by Mr. Carville are Correct--Thinks Mr. Pinder's Influence in York is Fictitious--Government Will Have a Tough Job Getting Money Out of Him, Says McLeod--Can Call Most of the Electors of York by Their Front Names

The following is the Hansard report of the remarkable speech delivered in the House of Commons on Monday by Mr. H. F. McLeod on Mr. Carville's motion for correspondence in connection with the Southampton Railway:

MR. H. F. McLEOD, (York, N.B.): I did not intend to take part in this discussion and the part I shall take will be very briefly expressed. I take it from the very moderate way in which my hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carville) has placed this question before the House—and sometimes he is not very moderate—and from the language he has used, that he is not making any attack upon the Government. I have no brief for this railway, and my hon. friend knows it. The hon. gentleman has said that Mr. Pinder received this subsidy "in order that he might be good." It was a matter of no importance to me—and I live in the same constituency with him and was his colleague in the provincial legislature for six or seven years—whether Mr. Pinder was good or not. It was a matter of no importance to me whether Mr. Pinder stood up in the convention and nominated me or not. The facts are that after he had received this subsidy he came to me in my office and said he would like to nominate me, and I said "Very good, Mr. Pinder, I shall be very glad if you do so." There are hundreds of men in the county of York carrying as much weight, whom I would have been much more pleased to have nominated me and whose nomination would have been equally effective. So far as I know and I think I do know, there was absolutely no arrangement whatever except in the mind of my hon. friend and no connection whatever between the nomination of myself by Mr. Pinder

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and the receipt of this additional subsidy.

KNOWS THE FACTS.

I think I ought to say to the House that I am familiar, very familiar with the facts laid before this House by my hon. friend (Mr. Carville). I ought to say also that I fully concur in many of the statements he has made. He has not been able to bring it home to the Government—I do not think he has attempted to do so—that any wrong has been done, or has been attempted to be done by the Government. I do not think my hon. friend attempts even to insinuate that Mr. Johnson, the engineer, has been guilty of deliberate wrong. But I say, I think I ought to say, that Mr. Johnson, the engineer in the case, when he made such a report as he did make, made it having been deceived as to the actual facts of the case. I believe that that report is not in all details, a correct statement of the cost of the specific items that went into the construction of that road. I have kept pretty well in touch with and I have been familiar with the construction of that road since its inception, but I do say from my own knowledge gleaned by living on the spot and by talking to the men whom my hon. friend has cited to-night as having given evidence in the case of Stewart vs. Southampton Railway Company, I am in a position to know that these items are padded items, and those items which Mr. Johnson has accepted and upon which very properly the Department of Railways, accepting his statement paid the subsidy, are not true and correct statements of fact in regard to what went into the construction of that railway.

I ought to say this much—I am not here to attack anybody, but in order that the House may know Mr. Pinder's attitude today, Mr. Pinder is held up as a wily Tory politician. Mr. Pinder has been for many years a member of the Conservative party, but I had occasion during this Session to go home to my constituency to take a hand in a contest in which a young man was nominated to fill the seat in the local legislature which I resigned to come to Ottawa. That young man was nominated at a regularly called convention of the Conservative party and I had occasion to go home to fight for that young man, not against the young man but against a gentleman whom this same man, Pinder was backing with all the power he had. Now, Mr. Pinder nominated me and for many years he had a fictitious reputation for great strength in the constituency. I represent but we had a showdown on this occasion and we beat Mr. Pinder's candidate by 644 votes, notwithstanding that we had the Liberal party against us and all that Mr. Pinder could do, in addition.

MR. CARVILLE—No, not the Liberal party.

MR. McLEOD—I think I know it better than my hon. friend does. I think I know the county of York better than he will ever know it. My hon. friend came into the county of York, once, in a by-election some time ago, and he discovered that we

beat his candidate then by twelve hundred votes, although the hon. member spent some time in the county. I know the county of York; I have been over it every inch and there are not many men in it that I do not call by their front names. However, Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to enter upon a discussion; I merely desired to place myself on record as agreeing with many of the facts presented here tonight, and I believe that the Acting Minister of Railways will investigate this and thoroughly investigate it, and if a wrong has been done, he will do his best to set it right. But might I suggest that when he starts to get any money back from James K. Pinder he is up against a real hard proposition.

PINDER NOT A GOOD BUSINESS MAN.

My hon. friend suggested a moment ago that there was \$37,000 that did not go into the railway; that somebody had it in his pocket and that he did not believe that James K. Pinder had it all in his pocket. I do not know where the money has gone; but if Mr. Pinder ever got it, he has got it yet. I am going to be very fair tonight. I do not believe that Mr. Pinder has got much of this money. Mr. Pinder is not a good business man. My hon. friend will admit that Mr. Pinder built that road in a slipshod way. He did not take advantage of the economic conditions to build that road in the most economical way in which it should have been built. I know that. I do not know whether Mr. Pinder has any money or not, but my hon. friend will not dare to charge against any man in New Brunswick or in Canada that he has received one dollar of that money wrongfully from Mr. Pinder. If he could, he would, but he cannot. Nobody received any of that money wrongfully and not one dollar of it went to any campaign fund. My hon. friend will not charge that it did.

I have said these few words frankly and fairly, not wishing to take part in this debate, but simply wishing to place before the House a representative of the county of York, New Brunswick, in a proper position in regard to the matter, so that my constituents may take notice of the fact that I do not countenance anything of a public nature that I know to be wrong.

MR. CARVILLE—I think I have been in Parliament long enough to know that it is not my province nor my place to make charges against any man unless I have the proof behind them, and I have been pretty careful in that regard. I have very strong suspicions of a good many things about that \$60,000. I have very strong suspicions as to how this report was made to Mr. Johnson and by Mr. Johnson to the Government.

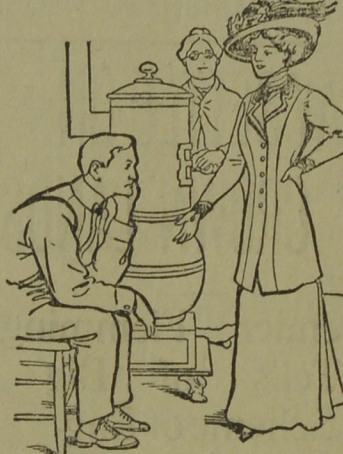
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I have very strong suspicions as to why this report was made as it was, and I have stronger suspicions as to why the last \$3,200 was paid to Mr. Pinder. All these suspicions and all the statements and charges made by my hon. friend from York, New Brunswick only emphasize the statement that I made some time ago to the Minister of Railways that if ever a statement had been presented to this House which demanded not merely a departmental investigation, but an investigation by a royal commission, my statement to-night backed up by my hon. friend, the member for York, New Brunswick was one. It is not in my opinion and I cannot incorporate it in my motion, but in the remarks I and frank corroboration of my statement by the hon. member for York, New Brunswick in not only the insinuation, but the statement that in his judgment Mr. Johnson is not the real sinner in this case. I think the case is doubly strong. Therefore I hope not only that the Minister of Railways will conduct a departmental investigation, but will appoint a royal commission and have this matter sifted to the very bottom.

Motion agreed to.

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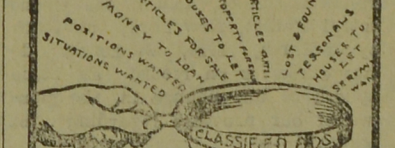
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