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NO. 77

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Opp. Normal School Fredericton, N. B.

AFTER FOWLER NOW.

Bourassa Moves that Member for King's Either Prove or Retract his Charges or Stand Censured by House.

SPEAKER RULES AGAINST RESOLUTION AND WAS SUSTAINED BY HOUSE.

Ottawa, April 3.—(Special).—When the orders of the day were called in the House of Commons today, Mr. Bourassa arose to present his motion calling upon Mr. Fowler to either withdraw his statements and members of the House, or to prove them.

He said that while his motion would cover pretty much the same ground as he had already covered, still there was sufficient new matter in it and it was sufficiently different from the other to put it within the order of the House.

The motion which he proposed was to call attention to the statement made by Mr. Fowler on February 19th, inviting him to name the members of the House to whom he referred in his wine, woman and graft speech, and to specify his charges or withdraw his accusation, and unless he took either of these courses, he would stand censured by the House.

The speaker said that the motion covered the same ground as the one put by Mr. Bourassa already, and therefore, he would have to rule it out of order.

He was willing, however, to hear the views of the House on the point of order.

Mr. Bourassa said that he did not question the Speaker's ruling, indeed it was no doubt correct, although he thought he would be able to show that his motion was raising another phase of the question.

When he moved previously, it was for a committee to inquire into the retraction of proof, otherwise the member, Fowler, would stand censured. No decision had been reached in the first instance and this was an adjournment of the previous discussion.

The quotations which Mr. Bourassa took from Mr. Fowler's speech were two, one referring to "women, wine and graft" and the other stating that he had certain information and data against certain members of the House.

Mr. Bourassa said that in view of what had already been said upon the subject in the press, he thought it would be inadvisable by a technicality to shut out discussion on the matter.

Mr. Borden said that while he was not prepared to dispute the Speaker's ruling, still he considered it unwise to stop the discussion by a technicality.

The resolution he said took a somewhat peculiar form, since it pronounced censure on a member of the House.

Mr. Foster spoke in a somewhat similar strain on the point of order. He wanted to hear from the government.

Mr. Bourassa said that he would also like to hear from the government as he intended asking the House's judgment upon Mr. Speaker's ruling.

Mr. Fowler said that he wanted to say a few words upon the point of order as he was interested. When Mr. Bourassa brought it up previously it was entirely out of order. The discussion took place and everyone was heard. He brings it up a second time. Mr. Bourassa had treated him with scant courtesy, he never

have him any notice of what the motion was to be, although he (Fowler) sent Bourassa a note yesterday, asking him for it. Mr. Bourassa never gave him a copy and he heard the motion when it was read in the House for the first time.

The point which Mr. Fowler took was that the words complained of should have been taken down at the time and if they were not they could not be discussed afterwards. This was the rule of the House. The quotations begun by Mr. Bourassa for his speech were barred from the context.

Dr. Sproule supported the view of the leader of the opposition. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that it was his duty to support the chair, unless the ruling was grossly wrong. There was a great deal to be said not as to the technical meaning of the rule, but as to the ultimate effect of it.

The Speaker has maintained what he holds to be the tradition of the House. These rules were not the result of a momentary impulse, but of long experience. We can never err in applying these rules. The member for LaBelle if he wants to clear the atmosphere has cases to show how this can be done.

The rule of the House that has come from the mother of parliaments is that the conduct of members cannot be impugned except upon a charge, and until a man rises and says that he can prove such and such a thing. Otherwise there is no occasion for a general inquisition.

The course taken by the Speaker is, therefore, a correct one. It is open for Mr. Bourassa to demand an investigation and he hoped the House would not depart from the sound traditions which have come from England, and according to which there should be no inquisition into any man's conduct or standing except on specific charges. If, unfortunately, there are members of the House whose conduct ought to be investigated, it must be the painful duty to investigate under the rules laid down by the House, and he was sure that from experience not very far back, the House would be equal to the occasion every time.

The speaker declared the motion out of order.

Mr. Bourassa appealed against the ruling of which was sustained by 104 to 37 against.

Messrs. Lancaster, Broder, Wright (Muskoka) and Crockett voted with the majority. Fowler did not vote.

Mr. Borden then called attention to a statement made by Mr. Emmerson yesterday about gutter politics against Liberals, while there was evidence within the grasp of the House and the country against Conservatives.

Mr. Borden said that Mr. Emmerson, who was not now in the house, had said either too much or too little.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the wisdom of such a rule as they had been discussing was apparent. The remarks of Mr. Emmerson should have been taken down and objected to at the time.

The matter then dropped.

MINERS ON STRIKE.

Sixteen Hundred of Them Walked Out Today at Springhill, N. S.

Amherst, N. S. April 3.—(Special). Sixteen hundred operators went out on strike today at Springhill Mines. Some time ago the P. W. A. posted notices that before April first, all non-union men must unite with the union, as it is expected the difficulty will be adjusted without much delay.

A number did not comply with the request and last night meetings of

both Pioneer and Mechanics Lodges were held, and it was decided to go out.

All consequently struck this morning, except the firemen who were allowed to remain to keep up the fires. There is no point of difference between the operators and management, and it is expected the difficulty will be adjusted without much delay.

PAINTING DONE PROMPTLY.

The undersigned will be ready on May 1st to do all kinds of spring painting and decorating. They are supplied with ladders, swinging stag-

es and all the necessary outfit to enable them to do all work in this line neatly, and promptly.

HUGHES BROS. Fredericton, N. B.

April 3, ditto, W.L.

EMMERSON'S IMPASSIONED SPEECH

States to Parliament His Reasons for Resigning His Position in the Government.

IS INNOCENT OF CHARGE PREFERRED AND WILL CLEAR UP ASPERSIONS AGAINST HIS CHARACTER.

Accusations are False and Traducers are Being Prosecuted.

PREMIER'S REPLY.

Ottawa, 1st April, 1907.

"My Dear Emmerson:

"I have come to the conclusion that the course which you take is, under existing circumstances, in the public interest. You owe it to yourself, to your colleagues and friends, to clear your character of the charges levelled against it. You could well ignore mere insinuations, but direct and specific charges you do well to face as soon as uttered.

"I will place your resignation in the hands of His Excellency. Let me assure you that I, as well as your colleagues, appreciate the efforts, labor and zeal with which you struggled to advance the public welfare in a most arduous department.

Believe me My Dear Emmerson, Yours very sincerely,

WILFRID LAURIER.

To the Hon. H. R. Emmerson, Ottawa.

Mr. Emmerson's Statement.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson—"It will perhaps be necessary for me to add a word to the announcement made by the Prime Minister. I want to be definitely clear as to what my statement should be and with the indulgence of the House, I shall read it, so that there need be no misapprehension as to the words. Mr. Emmerson then read the following statement:

"I desire at this time to repeat my denial explicitly and unqualifiedly of the charge which has been made against me by the Hon. Frederick Gleaner, and to say that I have taken steps to secure my vindication before the only tribunal having jurisdiction in the premises, the established courts of the law. To this end, I have given instructions for the issue of writs for libel against the Fredericton Gleaner, the Halifax Herald and the Toronto World, and I have been advised of the service in at least one of these cases. It is but a question of hours now in the other two cases. If indeed at this moment the writs have not been issued.

"Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the House, and with your permission I would like to say one other word. In common with every other member of this House, I recognize this fact that gossip has caused more mischief in the world than have the decrees of tyrants, and while I have been aware, coming to me as they have come to from time to time, that slanderous statements were being made that were untrue, they have not been made in any tangible way, and I could not before my peers and my fellows, take cognizance of them.

GLAD OF A DEFINITE CHARGE.

In a way I feel relieved to think that this matter has come to a head, that it has reached a point where I will at least be in a position to meet my traducers face to face. I do not know Mr. Speaker, whether it be a fact or not, that every man in this House is willing to have his private life exposed. I do not know if there is any man within sound of my voice, indeed, within the country, who is in a position to say that he has done no wrong. I admit that I have had my weaknesses, I have had my follies. Until this matter reached the point which it has reached, I had not thought that it was a subject matter for parliamentary discussion or for parliamentary investigation. I had felt this at least Sir, that the man who was without sin should be the man to cast the stone, and while standing as I do before the bar of public opinion and as within a few days I will stand before the courts of justice while I will tell the truth and the whole truth I expect to be judged not by the standards that would be set up upon the plea of "You are another," while I ask no mercy from that standpoint. If the standard that should be the standard of the people of the country shall govern me, and if I am unfit and unworthy of recognition in this House or in this country, I am willing to go down. But Sir, after that, and when that question has been fought out and determined, there

is another question that the members of this House will ask themselves, and that the people of this country will ask of this House, and that is, are there others?

THE CHARGES FALSE.

Sir, in making that statement and in making the written statement which I have made strong enough—if indeed I could make it strong enough—as regards the statements in that paper, which are untrue, which are false, I want to be understood as going even further and as saying that they are unqualifiedly false and that anything I have ever done, either in the city of Montreal or under any circumstances, I did to protect the innocent, and I have never been marked my words, Mr. Speaker, and I make them with the full knowledge of the solemnity of the occasion and of the dignity of my position—I have never been in a hotel in the city of Montreal, my life with a person of ill repute. I shall take occasion, Sir, to show the accusation to be untrue, and I will give the protection which I have at all times afforded to the innocent. I will never attempt to build myself up on anybody else's downfall.

Mr. Speaker, it must be recognized that I have made a statement of this kind are paraded before the country, and while I almost feel a sense of relief and gratification to know that I am now placed where I can and will meet my traducers, I have been in the position during the discussions in this House of not knowing whether the insinuations and innuendoes were aimed at me or not. There was nothing tangible nothing that I could take hold of. But the occasion has come, the time is now here, and I hope to be able to seize the opportunity so that every man who has heretofore been able to grasp my hand as a friend and an equal will hereafter feel that he can still grasp my hand and welcome me as heretofore, as a friend.

So far as my political opponents are concerned, I have no word to say. Political life has its difficulties, its troubles and its struggles, I have known it for over a score of years. I have met these difficulties; I have surmounted these obstacles, with all my weakness and with all my foibles, and who are there who have not? Who are there who are above reproach? I hope they exist. I hope they are within the sound of my voice. But, with all that, whatever may be mine, and I have them in common with humanity, I have a strong element of human nature about me, and I think, may I have always had the idea that it has been a sympathetic and warm hearted nature. It is not to leave me at this moment, and I do not, and will not, except in so far as I ask for a fair hearing and for a suspension of judgment on the part of the members of this House and on the part of the country. I make no plea for mercy. I make no appeal other than this, that I want to be considered a man, and if I cannot prove myself a man with all my weakness, I am willing to go down through the depths to which those who are beneath the level of true manhood must go.

SCANDAL IS TWO EDGED.

At this moment I make no reprisals. I have had good friends. I believe I have them yet—(applause)—and I say this that all in the ranks of those who have been my political opponents are not my enemies. And I have this to say further, that I will do my duty fearlessly and if on a future occasion these matters come before this House and if on a future occasion there is something to be said, as has already been announced, I will be here to say my say. I will be here at least to challenge the bonafides of these accusers. I will be here to declare that if political warfare is to be carried on with the weapons of slander and personal gossip, if the political warfare of Canada is to be degraded to that level, it is not only against those on this side of your chair, Mr. Speaker, who are to suffer in that warfare. And if the country would know the facts, if the public press which have had detectives on my track, and on the track of other ministers of the crown, seeking out matters that are of private moment, let me say that if the em-

(Continued on fifth page.)