

of the session, this was taken into account, and if the very severe climate of Regina would not do him he had a *carte blanche* that he might select a position in British Columbia. He might have had almost royal equipage. (Hear, hear.) His best judgment told him it was necessary, to capture these culprits, that he should carry on negotiations. Mr. Bunting's name had been mentioned in the affair; he could only say that the first man who approached him came as an emissary of Mr. Bunting, and said he wished him to go and see Mr. Bunting. At a subsequent interview he had an opportunity of talking directly to that gentleman, but he was unable to do everything necessary to be successful in the purpose which he thought it was his duty to carry out. He could only say that he felt it his duty at once to acquaint the Government with the offer which had been made to him. He would have embraced the opportunity to mention it from his place in the House the next day had it not been that similar offers had been refused and the evidence was insufficient to bring home a conviction to those bribers. He, therefore, submitted to the advice of those more able to manage such matters and did not expose the matter as he probably otherwise would have done. He felt it his duty to express his obligation to the hon. member for Essex and the hon. member for Wellington for having so successfully achieved this great service in the interests of the country. These men had attempted to bribe the members of the House with the people's own money, which came into their hands in some roundabout manner. They had attempted to trifle with the will of the people who had only expressed that will within the past twelve months. This was a crime which he hoped would not be again repeated in the history of this Province. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WOOD would like to see this matter investigated as rapidly and as thoroughly as it could be done, so that no horrible suspicion should rest for a moment upon one single member of his side of the House. He spoke for himself with an amount of feeling that he could scarcely express in words. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. AWREY simply rose to say as a member of the House, and one who regarded the honour of the Legislature equally with any other member, to assure his friends that whatever imputations might be made from the other side of the House that the stain would not rest upon the escutcheons of those individuals who had so nobly done their duty. Their regard for these gentlemen of whom he spoke was not in the least impaired by the course they had taken. There was not an honourable man in the Legislature or an honourable man in this country who was not at a critical time in his country's history prepared at some self-sacrifice to bring criminals to justice. (Cheers.) He thought that it came with ill-grace from any member of this House to assert that the stain rested upon these gentlemen. This was the plea brought forth by the hon. member from East Toronto as the only excuse for the bribers having been caught. These bribers had attempted by a single payment to ruin the institutions of the Province, and allure these men to political ruin.

Mr. BAXTER had had the honour of representing a constituency in this House since the first Parliament. He had seen a good many public men, a great many of whom had gone to their long home, but at no time since he had occupied a seat in the House had he felt that matters of so much importance had been submitted to them. He regretted exceedingly that it had been necessary to bring a matter of this kind before the House. He had known his hon. friend (Mr. McKim) for years, and he felt satisfied that he would not enter an action against any man with the view of punishing anyone without there was the greatest necessity for it. He (Mr. Baxter) felt that these hon. gentlemen had done a great public duty in bringing this matter before the House in the way which they had done. He did not think his hon. friend from East Toronto had taken the right course. He thought the members of the House would justify these hon. members in the course they had taken. It was well-known to the members of the House and the people of this country that the men who were charged with this crime were the very men who for months past had been known in the country as the chief bribers of the Conservative party. It was fortunate that these men had now been caught, and there might be an end put to this system of bribery, which might be the means of accomplishing so much evil in this country. He thought the course suggested by the Attorney-General, to refer this matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, was one which would commend itself to everyone who had the welfare of the Province at heart.

Mr. BRODER said the matter had greatly surprised him. He felt that the honour of every member of the House was involved. The views of the people of this Province had to be respected. (Hear, hear.) He believed that the integrity of every member of the House was something that should be maintained. He had nothing to say as to the means by which these facts would be brought to light, but it was the duty of the House to deal with the facts as they were found. (Hear, hear.) He believed that while they had their differences in the House as politicians, they were alike equally responsible for the purity of the House. (Hear, hear.) He believed that every man should stand up for the purity of the

House and see that justice was done not alone to the House but to the country in this matter, which involved a grave responsibility at the present time. He thought it was a great pity that while matters of this kind had been carried on that it should only be brought forward just before the close of the session.

Mr. FRASER said the second payment was only made at 3:30 that afternoon.

Mr. BRODER admitted that there was nothing in his argument on that score. He saw that the Committee on Privileges and Elections was called for Tuesday at 10 o'clock, and he hoped that the investigation would bring all the facts to light.

Mr. GRAY said he would do his best, as far as he was concerned, to bring the guilty parties to justice.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN regretted very much the attitude assumed by hon. gentlemen opposite. He was sorry that the leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for East Toronto had endeavoured to throw the blame on hon. gentlemen on the Government side of the House who had done their duty to the Province.

Mr. YOUNG said the circumstances which had been brought to the attention of the House were most painful. As a Canadian he had always felt proud of their legislative leaders as compared with some other countries. The legislatures of the Dominion had heretofore been pure from any such corrupt influences in the shape of bribery as had been brought before the House at the present time. He felt that the matter was of the greatest importance, and that it should be thoroughly investigated in the interests of the Province and in the interests of the public. He joined in with the hon. gentlemen who had spoken on the Government side of the House in thanking the members for Essex and Wellington for the course which they had pursued. If such bribery continued he was confident that there would be no Dominion of Canada in ten years from the present time. The check had to be put upon it, and he rejoiced that they had been able to check such an attempt to bribe the members and turn out the Government. He rejoiced that the fraud had been exposed and brought to the light of day. Another painful feature was that from the statements made by the Attorney-General it would appear that patronage of the Government of the Dominion had been offered here to bribe the members on the floor of the House to turn out the Government of the day. The Dominion Government had interfered with the representatives of the Province, and they now proposed to go further and turn out the Government of this Province, which had been the choice of the people. Every member of the Government side felt pained at these disclosures which had been made.

Mr. CLARKE—I wish this resolution had been held over for 24 hours. There is an election to-morrow, and it is quite possible that this news may be flashed over the country and efforts made to bring reproaches on the Conservative party and influence the result. I think the gentlemen concerned in this have done perfectly right in making the approaches to them known to the Government, if there have been any approaches. For his part, he thought it was premature to conclude that the approaches had been made by friends of the party he belonged to. He did not think the House would be able to do any business, for they would not know whom to suspect. He was sorry that the name of C. W. Bunting had been mentioned, because no evidence had been offered which really connected his name with the charge. Of course the Attorney-General is responsible for the charge, and he could say that while he was sorry that there was cause for the revelations, he was not sorry that the revelations had been made. He was very glad to know that the parties were in gaol, and he hoped they would remain in gaol if they were guilty. We don't know, said he, whether it is a friend or foe of the Government who has done this. They may have got this money to be offered to these men. (Ironical cheers from the Government side.) It is not proved that Conservatives have done this, and until it is proved you cannot hold us responsible. The affair ought to have been held over till after to-morrow.

Mr. FRASER—Does the hon. gentleman think it would be a right, proper, and decent thing to have delayed this for 24 after the money was paid.

Mr. CLARK—How do we know that guilt actually exists in these men?

Mr. HARDY—The hon. gentleman bears up very well for a man who is sorry.

Mr. McINTYRE said as a young member of the House he felt very deeply the indignity which had been placed upon the members and the House. He contended that this incident was only the natural outcome of that kind of policy which had so strenuously been pursued by the Conservative party during the late election, and the logical outcome of the language they had seen printed daily in the columns of the *Mail*. While exonerating the members of the Opposition of the charge which might exist in the minds of some, he must hold that men who were cognizant of the manner of canvassing in Muskoka and South Victoria must show the responsibility. He regretted very much the tone of the members for London and East Toronto, and that they should have been more anxious to cast a stigma upon the gentlemen who had laid bare the crime than they were to express horror for the crime. (Hear, hear.) To suggest, as had been done, that Wil-