

of other than the said James Robert Stratton, and under and with the like power and authority herein contained, and subject to such notice and terms as may appear to you reasonable and proper to be given to the member so charged."

Mr. Whitney's View.

On the conclusion of the reading Mr. Whitney said:—A cursory glance over this copy makes it quite clear in my opinion that the Government are determined to hamper the investigation. That is the quickest and most intelligible way for me to express my opinion. By the provisions of this commission the House has abdicated its judgment. The remarkable and decidedly unique feature in the whole document is the provision that the commission may report upon any charge arising out of or connected with the present charges, which may affect any member of the Cabinet other than Mr. Stratton. But the charges must be preferred in writing, and no person but a member of the Assembly is to have the power or privilege in this British country to make a charge against any other member of the Government except Mr. Stratton. Why, I wonder when hon. gentlemen will stop! The right to make a charge against other members of the Government than Mr. Stratton is to be confined to the members of this Legislature, and they are to do it in writing, forsooth! It is a hint to the Judges, it is a declaration that they cannot proceed to consider this investigation as one involving the matter of the Government. I admire, let me here express my admiration of, the astuteness with which the Provincial Secretary got ahead of his colleagues and let out the fact that although he offered his resignation on Wednesday, which had been kept secret by the Premier, it has not been accepted, and we now know that they must stand or fall together. I do not propose to take the time of the House from the consideration of general questions.

Mr. T. H. Preston.

Mr. T. H. Preston (South Brant), in resuming the debate on the Premier's motion to refer the inquiry to a commission, expressed satisfaction with the Liberal instructions just read. He paid a compliment to the speakers of the previous day, and advised the Opposition to bring more recruits from the Press Gallery, as they usually brought luck. He warned against prophesying unless you know, and said it remained to be seen whether the member for Manitoulin had given hon. gentlemen opposite a gold brick or had gold-bricked them. We were having a trial by newspapers on this question, and there were gentlemen on the Toronto press who had already decided that the charges brought against a member of the Government were true. They had sentenced them to political death and were only waiting to carry out the remains. On the Government side of the House they were not so expeditious. They wanted things done decently and in order, and did not think that the services of pall-bearers would be required for some time to come. He agreed with one of the remarks of the hon. member for South Wellington when he said that the people of this Province demanded a full and searching inquiry. They wanted the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. But before they passed sentence they wanted to give the accused the right of every British subject—a fair trial. Then they were prepared to accept the consequences, whatever they might be.

Should Formulate Charges.

He had no sympathy, he said, with the means that were said to have been taken, and he believed had been taken, to deprive the member for South Oxford of his seat. (Opposition applause.) He thanked them for their applause, because he thought those were the sentiments of both sides of the House. (Opposition applause.) While he had no sympathy with these measures, however, he did not think it was fair for him to rise when the charges of the member for Manitoulin were under discussion and state that he had been approached to support the Gov-

ernment in this House, unless he was prepared to put the case in such a way as to be judicially or otherwise investigated. He would say the same of Dr. Reaume's statement that he had been offered the Speakership of the House if he would support the Government. That offer must certainly have been a jest, as it had been said, when we remembered that a Speaker was always appointed who had been in the House for a sufficiently long period to obtain some experience of the methods of the House.

Mr. Whitney here said that the first Speaker of the first Legislature of Ontario was a gentleman who had never been in the Legislature until the day before he was appointed.

Mr. Preston was not prepared to speak as to this particular instance, but upheld, nevertheless, that the principle he had enunciated was a well and generally recognized one, and he thought the leader of the Opposition would agree with him. Continuing, he said it would be right for these gentlemen to formulate their charges definitely or forever afterwards hold their peace.

We had had a treat to West Elgin in this debate, doubtless before its conclusion we would have the Dakota steer trotted out, and would hear of the ram Dan, the calf with the cough, the horse with the blind staggers and the Humber pig.

Mr. Foy—And the North York polecat. (Laughter.)

Mr. Preston—I would have no objection if they want it to have them add the polecat to their zoo.

Many other matters might be gone into, said Mr. Preston. He might go into some numerical records of the two parties. Such a search would show that there had been 40 Conservatives and only 34 Liberals walk the plank in Ontario since confederation. They could remind the House that four Conservatives and two Liberals had been unseated since the last election.

Committee's Disqualifications.

Mr. Preston then referred to the committee that was first appointed to hear the C.P.R. scandal. It consisted of three prominent Conservatives and two Liberals. They were all strong party men. Sir John Macdonald thought that Mr. Blake was not a suitable man to sit on the committee, by reason of the speeches he had made. That might equally well be said of the gentlemen opposite in regard to the present case. They had disqualified themselves for sitting on a committee of Parliament to hear such charges.

After the lapse of four months the C.P.R. case was taken away from the committee to avoid a mistrial.

Mr. Whitney—It was not a mistrial, but no trial.

Mr. Preston replied that there was no trial because the committee could never get down to business.

In conclusion Mr. Preston argued that the Government were showing their desire for a fair trial by appointing a Royal Commission. In a committee of the House they would have the advantage of a tribunal that had in former cases been partial to the majority of the House. They were giving up this advantage and going before a judicial tribunal in order to have a fair and impartial trial.

Mr. Hugh Clark's Maiden Effort.

Mr. Hugh Clark (Centre Bruce), who followed in his maiden speech, said the revelations by Mr. Gamey were degrading to this Province. The most significant feature was that the majority of the people believed the charges were true. (Order, order.) A large number of the members on the other side of the House believed there was something in them. This belief was based partly on the record of the Administration during the past three or four years. He had thought on Monday that the Provincial Secretary had made a rather smooth move in announcing that he had resigned. From the newspaper published by the Provincial Secretary he learned that the Attorney-General was implicated in the charges, while the Commissioner of Public Works had shown remarkable beneficence to the member for Manitoulin.

Mr. Latchford—If the hon. gentle-

man will put an interview in The Globe stating that he will support the Government, and apply to me, he will be entitled to receive, and will receive, as favorable consideration. (Loud laughter and applause.)

Mr. Clark—I did not know that the hon. Commissioner of Public Works was open for more orders. (Laughter.)

Mr. Whitney—He is game. (Laughter.)

Mr. Clark—It is now up to me to apply to the Provincial Secretary for an interview in The Globe. (Laughter and applause.) Continuing, Mr. Clark said he would not say that the Premier and his colleagues had a guilty knowledge of the negotiations by which they were to receive the support of the member for Manitoulin.

Influenced by Ringing Notes.

He could understand that the Premier, who had a very high opinion of his own building-up policy, might think that the member for Manitoulin was influenced wholly and solely by that policy. He could understand that the Premier might think that Mr. Gamey was influenced by the high, clear, ringing notes of statesmanship rather than by the higher, clearer, ringing notes of the Ontario Bank. (Loud laughter.)

The Committee Justified.

Mr. W. H. Hoyle (North Ontario) said the strongest argument so far presented in favor of investigation by a committee of the House had just been presented by the Commissioner of Public Works. (Applause.) Mr. Latchford was in a communicative frame of mind, knowing it was the Lenten season. He had made an open and public confession that the way by which the Ontario Government desired to entrap members from that side of the House was in and through an interview with The Daily Globe, whereby they were called upon to sign a recantation, yea, more than that, to brand themselves as desirous of evading the mandate of the people who sent them there, and it was openly proclaimed that if they would do that the coffers of the Public Works Department, be the orders as large as they may be, would be open to them in the manner which had been indicated on the floor of the House.

Mr. Latchford—I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentleman has no intention of misrepresenting me. What I stated was that if the hon. gentleman had published an interview in The Globe stating that he would support the Government, and had written me, he would be entitled to receive, and would receive—(Opposition applause)—just as favorable a reply as that which I addressed to the hon. gentleman. (Ministerial applause.) My hon. friends are welcome to all the satisfaction they can get out of that statement. The man proclaimed in the most public way that he was a supporter of the Administration, and when he wrote to me about a matter connected with my departmental administration a few days later, I wrote to him in strict reply, and my letter is just as fair under all the circumstances as he had a right to expect, and no more. While this man was elected as a Conservative, after his statement had publicly appeared, I had no reason to believe that he was not sincere, and

Missing
proceeding, Mr. Hoyle took objection to the Attorney-General's reference to slang-whanging in the Legislature, and said, man for man, the debaters there compared favorably with those in any public body he had visited, including the Canadian and British Houses, and the American Congress.

He concluded by declaring the adjournment to be the worst portion of the proposition, and expressed the belief that a first-class political thunderstorm would do good; thunderstorms were followed by rain, and a rain would replenish the earth.

Mr. Andrew Pattullo.

Mr. Andrew Pattullo (North Oxford) said it was inconceivable to him how the business of the House could be properly transacted while the