

"FALSIFIER," "TRADUCER," "STANDS THERE WITH A FACE OF BRASS"

The Premier Indulges in Vitriolic Language in the Debate in Legislature on the Proudfoot Charges.

"Are You Going to Allow Such Conduct?" Asks Mr. Rowell of Speaker, and Sir James Makes the Reply.

Mr. Proudfoot has implemented his statement to the Committee on Privileges and Elections that he would carry his objections to the procedure of the committee to the House.

On the resumption of the Legislature after a ten days' adjournment yesterday, the member for Centre Huron placed his entire position before the Legislature and before the people of the Province. Exercising his rights as a member, Mr. Proudfoot presented an exhaustive review of the entire situation, and made public property the contents of the letter from Thorne to Maisonville that was unceremoniously rejected by the committee last week.

Mr. Proudfoot spoke for over two hours. At times he was subjected to acrimonious interruption, but preserved through all the trying ordeal an even temper. There was, however, no interruption as he read the Thorne letter; on the contrary, an anxious and almost apprehensive look came over the countenances of many members on the Government side, who ceased from reading or conversation and suspended writing to catch every word of the fateful document.

Public interest centred largely in the proceedings of the day. At an early hour the galleries were filled, and long before the debate commenced there was not a foot of vacant space on the floor of the House.

At the opening of the House the Lieutenant-Governor arrived minus the usual trappings of State, and gave consent to one hundred and fifty-three bills, representing the result of the legislative efforts of the House for the session. This brings into operation the new laws that have been enacted, and prevents inconvenience to public business, no matter how long the debate may now be protracted.

The Debate Opened.

On the motion by Mr. G. Howard Ferguson (Grenville) to adopt the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections that the Proudfoot charges "have no foundation in fact," the usual notice was waived, and the whole question was thrown open to debate.

Mr. Proudfoot supported his argument by opinions from E. F. B. Johnston, H. H. Dewart, George H. Watson, M. K. Cowan and Sir Allen Aylesworth, in which they declared that the evidence relative to the coal tenders should have been admitted during the investigation. It was also declared that a witness under such circumstances should be permitted

to refresh his memory.

At this point Mr. Ferguson interrupted Mr. Proudfoot, and stated that he could not see the point the speaker hoped to obtain by reading such epistles. "Why not table them?" said he.

"We can table anything now," replied Mr. Proudfoot, "but we couldn't in committee." This retort had such an effect upon the Opposition band that they continually pounded their desks, which was quickly returned by the Government side in response to inaudible remarks from members. The Speaker was finally forced to ask the members to observe the rules of debate and consider the dignity of the House.

An Unfair Report.

"How, in the face of the evidence adduced and the statements made by the Provincial Secretary, can the committee record such a statement that no evidence was forthcoming to support the charges?" Mr. Proudfoot asked. "I say that such a report is unfair, and not in accordance with the evidence taken. How can it be stated that there was a full inquiry? The majority of the members of that committee must have peculiar conceptions as to what a full inquiry means. They must think it means the shutting out of much of the evidence."

Proceeding Mr. Proudfoot read Section 158 of the criminal code—"Everyone is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to a fine of not less than \$100 and imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, who makes an offer, proposal, gift, loan or promise, directly or indirectly, to any official or person in the employ of the Government, etc." "Here we find Taylor had a contract with the Government, which extended over a period of years, shortly after the contract was started there were disputes between them until the matter was finally closed up. This code demonstrates the position Taylor was in when he offered the money to Mr. Hanna.

An Indictable Offence.

"How does this affect Mr. Hanna?" he asked. "Section 69 of the code makes him liable to an indictable offence. We were not permitted to enquire how the \$500 were given to him. We have it standing clearly before us that the evidence was being guarded, because the man who took money from Taylor is as guilty as Taylor is under the other section.

"Then if we went into the circumstances showing why the money was