

promised if he secured the position at the salary mentioned that he would represent these interests in the House and carry out their desires—a position which no honorable member in this House can approve or support.

Statement to Caucus.

"I desire further to say that the honorable member for Prescott came to the Liberal caucus this morning and made a statement in reference to the letter read in the House yesterday by the honorable member for Grenville. After making his statement the honorable member retired. It was unanimously decided that the honorable member should not be again invited to attend caucus or be recognized as one entitled to take part in the deliberations of the Liberal members of the Legislature, and this decision has been communicated to him by the Chief Whip of the party in the Legislature.

"It is a painful duty to be compelled to make such a statement, but we on this side of the House feel it is a duty we owe to ourselves and the House and the party which we represent to sever the relations which have hitherto existed between the honorable member for Prescott and his colleagues on this side of the House."

Mr. Ferguson Tries to Make Capital

Mr. Ferguson took advantage of Mr. Rowell's remarks to add further comment on the Evanturel letter incident. Mr. Rowell's statement had surprised him, he said, and he was not inclined to think that the Liberal leader could entirely disassociate himself from the position he had assumed. "What are the facts as they will be viewed by the public? The hon. member from Prescott was nominated as the recognized candidate of the Liberal party in that county. He was recognized as such, he was elected as such, and his election was acclaimed all over this Province as a great victory. Not only is that the case, but he came here supporting the Liberal party, attending the councils of the Liberal party, taking part in their deliberations from time to time. He kept himself closely allied and in touch with the leader of the Opposition, who had just denounced him in the House.

Calls It Campaign Fund.

"I remember only yesterday the enthusiastic applause with which the leader of the Opposition received the remark of the hon. gentleman from Prescott when he referred to him as 'my beloved leader, whom I am proud to follow.' He went arm in arm with his leader in advocating his policy of moral reform and the abolition of the bar, and all the time he had expressed a desire to make an official connection of the liquor interests with the Liberal party to get a large contribution from the liquor party, no doubt to be made use of in the interests of the Liberal party."

Cries of "Oh, oh."

Corrected by Mr. Rowell.

"I must rise on a question of fact," quickly interrupted Mr. Rowell. "On the question of taste, my honorable friend himself must be the judge. The honorable member should be aware of the facts before he attempts to make a statement. The honorable member from Prescott never travelled through the Province with me. He has always been opposed to us on the policy of the abolition of the bar, either figuratively or in any other way."

But Mr. Ferguson would not be satisfied. He referred to the journals of the House for 1912 when the vote on the "abolish the bar" resolution was taken, and quoted Mr. Evanturel as being paired with Mr. Gamey. That pair, he declared, was equivalent to supporting the resolution of Mr. Rowell, as it offset Mr. Gamey's vote.

"What does it mean?" said Mr. Ferguson in conclusion. "It means this: you can sit here and support the Liberal party, and we will accept your sympathy, assistance and support so long as you are not discovered."

Mr. Bowman Explains.

There were more interruptions, and the Speaker vainly tried to maintain order.

Mr. C. M. Bowman (North Bruce) insisted on making an explanation with regard to the record of the vote in 1912. The day the vote was taken Mr. Evanturel had left the Chamber, leaving a message with a member that he did not wish to be paired. That message was not conveyed to

him. "When the vote was taken and a pair was requested by the Government Whip, on my own responsibility I paired the honorable member for Prescott with the honorable member for Manitoulin. The next day I received a strong letter of protest from the honorable member for Prescott for having done so, and he spoke bitterly to me as Whip and the position I had assumed in pairing him with the honorable gentleman from Manitoulin."

He thought the attitude now taken by Mr. Ferguson was one of great disappointment, and the bomb he tried to explode on Wednesday had failed to produce the effect that he anticipated. (Applause.)

Government May Prosecute Member

Immediately before adjournment Hon. J. J. Foy made the first statement from the Cabinet on the subject of the Evanturel letter: "With reference to the letter written by the hon. member from Prescott to this House yesterday, the leader of the Opposition says he made a statement to caucus, but has not given any explanation to this House. It was publicly stated that he would do so to-day. We would have liked to hear this explanation, but in default of any I wish to say on behalf of the Government that the serious matter involved in that letter has engaged the attention of the Government, and they will take such steps as they deem necessary after calm and careful consideration to deal with it properly and to save the dignity of the House, whose dignity has been insulted by that action."

Mr. Rowell followed. "With reference to the observations made by the hon. members, the acting Prime Minister, I had expected the hon. member from Prescott to have been here to-day and presume he still will make a statement to the House. I quite concur in the remarks of the acting Prime Minister that the matter is one of such grave importance and serious import that it should receive the attention of the Government, and he will find that the members on this side of the House will facilitate any action that the Government may take properly in connection with the matter that has been brought before the House."

Pressure May Cause Member to Resign

What Mr. Evanturel will do in view of the proceedings in the Legislature yesterday was the most eagerly discussed topic in the lobbies of the House last night. His statement early in the day that he did not intend to resign his seat and would continue to regard himself as a Liberal was entirely discounted by the action of the Liberal members in excluding him from the caucus. Mr. Rowell's speech in the House in the afternoon made it clear that Mr. Evanturel was excluded from the Liberal caucus, and would no longer be recognized as one entitled to take part in the deliberations of the Liberal members of the House.

In addition to this information being communicated to Mr. Evanturel by Mr. C. M. Bowman (North Bruce), Liberal Whip, it is understood that Mr. Rowell has written personally advising him that the best course open now is to tender his resignation to the Speaker as member for Prescott.

Government's Attitude.

The hint given by Mr. Foy before adjournment that the Government would take some action in view of what has happened may cause Mr. Evanturel to change his mind about resigning. The course that the Government may take, if forced to act, has not been disclosed, and the Attorney-General will not make a statement.

In view of Mr. Evanturel's admission that he wrote the letter read to the House, it would seem that the matter of proof was only a formal affair. An investigation could be made by a select committee, and a report made to the House, and expulsion and disqualification follow, according to the character of that report. It is practically assured that the House itself will go on record as expressing its censure of what Mr. Evanturel has done.

The next twenty-four hours will no doubt clear the atmosphere one way or the other.