

was a private one, and can only be attributed to thoughtlessness and foolishness on my part, in view of the construction which it was possible to place upon its wording.

If I had any criminal intention to do anything wrong at the time I wrote these letters, and if I had any intention to sell my influence in the House, or if I intended in any way to affect the dignity of the House, surely the members of this House and the people of this Province will admit that I could deal in a more confidential and secret way. I loudly and openly asked for a position and financial support. I have never approached any of these gentlemen of the association personally, never knew them. All that I did was to write the letter produced, and some others similar, and nothing more. Nothing came out of it.

Realizes His Offence.

I realize now, Mr. Speaker, and I have to admit it, that my action was against the dignity of the House, and might have brought dishonor to my county. If, Mr. Speaker, the sincerity, honesty and frankness, which have inspired this statement, have some weight in this House and the Province, I trust that my apology to the House as a legislator, to the Province as a citizen, and to my constituency as their representative, will be accepted. I regret an action committed unintentionally, and I desire to appear before this House as any straight and honest man should do in similar circumstances.

When Mr. Evanturel sat down there was no sound or demonstration of any kind from his fellow-members. He had read without apparent emotion, and when he resumed his seat his face was almost expressionless.

Mr. Ferguson Commends Frankness.

As Mr. Evanturel had spoken on a question of privilege, Mr. G. Howard Ferguson (Grenville) asked permission to move the adjournment of the House to continue the discussion. He commended the member for Prescott on his straightforwardness in admitting that he wrote the letter and in stating fully and frankly his position with regard to his leader's policy of "banish the bar." He noticed that Mr. Evanturel had referred to other members of the Liberal party who were of the same mind as himself in connection with that policy, and he wanted to congratulate him, on having the courage to take a position which they apparently did not have.

"The hon. gentleman referred to the question of his being paired with the hon. member for Manitoulin (Mr. Gamcy), upon which I touched the other day, and I gather from his statement to-day that he left for the Whip of his party a written statement, in which he explained that he was unable to support the Opposition on that question and was withdrawing from the House. Notwithstanding that statement, he was paired—due apparently to the fact that the Whip did not get his letter in time. But the next day he apparently wrote another and very strong letter to the Whip repudiating the pairing and repeating that he would not support the resolution and reprimanding him somewhat for having paired him."

Mr. Evanturel nodded acquiescence.

Evanturel Always Opposed.

Mr. Ferguson, proceeding: "Yes, and the Whip admitted it the other day. Then I should like to ask my hon. friend a further question. I gathered from his statement to-day that he is opposed to his leader (and his leader and his party have known it) on that temperance question. Is that so?"

Mr. Evanturel—I can only say that I have nothing further to add to the statement I have made to-day to the House.

Evanturel Twice Paired.

Mr. Ferguson — Because, Mr. Speaker, I take it that the hon. gentleman intends to take that position from the statement that he has just read to the House, and if that be the case, I would be glad, and I think the House would be interested—and the Province would be very much interested—in knowing why the hon. gentleman was paired on a very similar occasion just a week or ten days after he had given the Whip notice that he did not purpose supporting his party on the temperance question and did not desire to be paired.

In this instance Mr. Ferguson referred to a vote taken later in that session to prohibit the granting of licenses to clubs. "The hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, has sat in the House ever since with

full knowledge of that fact, and he has yet not attempted to repudiate it."

Attacks Mr. Rowell.

Mr. Ferguson then went on to state that Mr. Rowell had frequently referred in the House to the fact that his party was a unit on the temperance question, and yet had made no attempt to explain why one of his party, opposed to him on the matter of temperance, had been paired.

"The point I wish to make, Mr. Speaker, is that this action just shows how much in earnest the leader of the Opposition is, how much sincerity there is attached to the policy he is advocating throughout the Province." This was the "I am holier than thou" policy, declared the member for Grenville, and he again brought up Mr. Rowell's connection with The Globe at the time he tabled his abolish-the-bar resolution.

Mr. Ferguson a Pessimist.

"Now I say, following up that course with the incident in the House the other day, what must the House and the country believe? They find him with a man who has been openly opposed to himself and his party, they find him taking that man into his counsels, taking him into his bosom and confiding in him, they find him announcing again and again that the party is a unit on his temperance policy, and they find him repudiating that man now only when exposure comes in this House. And I suppose, Mr. Speaker, that he will not repudiate those other members of his party to whom the hon. member from Prescott has referred until they are exposed in the House, and if the party goes on being decimated from time to time in this way it seems as if it would only be a matter of time until the party falls by the wayside in this Province."

Two Party Leaders Ask for Resignation

"This is a very serious and a very grave matter," said Hon. J. J. Foy, who spoke on the conclusion of Mr. Ferguson's remarks. "The honorable member for Prescott deserves credit for seeing now the error of his ways in having written the letter referred to. He has apologized to the House for what he thinks was an indiscretion, but which we think was far more serious than an indiscretion. He has acknowledged also very frankly that he wrote the letter, so that the matter is now before the House. No two interpretations can be put upon it. It is an attack on the dignity of the Legislature, of which he ought to have been an unholder."

"Sir, I am not going to say anything that will add to the distress of the honorable member in consequence of his having written that letter. I have no doubt that every member of the House will consider that the apology is not sufficient to meet the case. Something more ought to come from him. I myself think that he ought to resign his seat in the House. He should consider whether he should do that or not, and, if not, it will be the duty of the House, and primarily of the Government, to take some action in the matter."

"The form it will take I cannot at the moment say. Until I heard the statement just read I did not know the honorable gentleman was going to acknowledge the letter. Until now the House itself had no positive proof of what he did. It has now proof; we have the statement from the honorable gentleman. That having been established, it, therefore, rests with the House to take what action is proper in the matter. In the meantime I would ask the honorable gentleman whether he ought to go further than an apology, and consider whether he should tender his resignation in due course as member for the county of Prescott."

A Dignified Position.

Mr. Rowell, who followed, spoke in the following terms: "The acting Prime Minister has dealt with this unfortunate matter which has come before the House in the serious and dignified manner in which I am sure all the honorable members feel a matter so vitally affecting the House and its honor should be dealt with. I can only say that I express my complete concurrence in the remarks of the honorable the Attorney-General and in the suggestion he has tendered to the honorable member for Prescott. I have already conveyed that intima-