

pondence. The ex-Minister, he said, apparently required a breathing spell, and the injunction proceedings were seized upon as a means of getting that breathing spell.

Dr. Godfrey, having demanded an apology from the Attorney-General for a cross-floor statement. "I didn't ask you for a prescription," a remark which the member for West York declared to be an insult, the Attorney-General proceeded along his course to declare that the bill introduced sought to free public inquiries from the trammels of petty dollar-and-ten-cent legal proceedings.

To Stifle Inquiry.

"We have had a series of attempts on the part of various interests, led by the member for Grenville," he said, "to stifle this inquiry, attempts to destroy the confidence of the people in the Judiciary. This getting of correspondence out of the way, the action brought by this company, and the technical objection raised to the bill upon introduction are instances."

The Attorney-General closed his speech after another controversy with the member for West York, who, upon challenge, advanced the Tichborne incident before the commission as a thing that stood to the commission's discredit.

Defends Ex-Secretary.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson charged the Attorney-General with drawing a red herring across the trail by attempting to discredit the character of Mr. Hele, who had been, he averred, the faithful servant of several Ministers of the Crown. In refusing to inform the counsel at the Timber Commission regarding his occupation Mr. Hele had done properly, he felt. The Attorney-General had not been fair in failing to state that Hele had offered to give the desired information to their Lordships.

Attorney-General—How could their Lordships receive evidence privately? It is absurd.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Absurd, is it? I'll accept that word. Why, then, did they take in secret the evidence, the statement of Callighan, and never publish it, to this day?

Attorney-General—That is not true.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—It is.

Attorney-General—I don't believe it.

Callighan, Hon. Mr. Ferguson explained, had gone to Osgoode Hall and given certain information to the commissioners. According to the evidence of R. T. Harding, he continued, that gentleman had told the Attorney-General that he was "collecting information for a client."

"He conveyed that information to you, Mr. Attorney-General," said the Conservative Leader.

"That is not true," replied the Attorney-General.

"There are these two untruths. The statement as you have read it is not true, and the construction you have put upon it is not true."

Says There's Nothing to Hide.

In so far as the destruction of letters was concerned, Hon. Mr. Ferguson said, he had absolutely nothing to hide. Certain letters had been mislaid, and these Mr. Hele had hurried to place in the charge of officials of the Department of Lands and Forests. On his visit to the departmental offices, Mr. Hele had found all the heads out, and he had been unable to leave the letters there at that time, as had been his intention.

"I want to say here now, from my place in this House," declared the member for Grenville, "that there isn't a letter or a document of any kind that can't be produced to that

commission or the Attorney-General, or anyone else."

Crown counsel before the commission, the member went on, had deliberately suppressed the complete record of evidence, though it was at that time in his possession. Coming to the remarks of the commissioners regarding the application of the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Company, Hon. Mr. Ferguson referred in particular to the statements attributed to Mr. Justice Latchford. In this connection he challenged the Attorney-General to read fully the terms of the application, giving details under which the contract with that company had been consummated.

"I say that the Attorney-General has allowed himself to be loaded up by a counsel who today has the most warped and distorted ideas of any counsel I know of," he declared. In naming the personnel of the commission, he said, the Government had done a preposterous thing, violating the British principle that no Judge in any action may be a person with interest or bias such as, in his opinion, must necessarily be possessed by Mr. Justice Latchford, a member of a former Liberal Administration. The Government, he said, had forfeited public confidence by the manner in which it had inaugurated the inquiry.

The Conservative Leader passed next to the reply given in the House by Hon. Mr. Bowman regarding the overrun under the Doyle rule, as recorded in the Hurdman report. He wanted to know why the Attorney-General had not read to the House in their entirety the letters written by Mr. Hurdman.

The Attorney-General—You may have them.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I'll be glad to. And I venture to say that when the whole of these letters are produced they will give a different complexion of things from that which the Attorney-General gave to this House.

Party to the Reports.

The Attorney-General, the member for Grenville said, had been a party, through his counsel, to the preparation of the interim reports presented by the Timber Commissioners. He could prove, he said, that R. T. Harding had done, in part, the preparation of these reports. Objection being taken by Hon. Mr. Raney to the statement of the member for Grenville that he had had anything to do with the reports, Hon. Mr. Ferguson said:

"I allege that Mr. Harding was a party to drawing up these interim reports, and I can prove it."

Hon. Mr. Raney characterized as "false" the alleged implication that he himself had worked upon the reports. At the Speaker's request he later substituted "untrue" for the word false.

"I invite all the attacks that can come to me from the graces on the other side of the House," concluded the Conservative Leader. "I invite all the attacks that can be made upon the conduct of my office during the former regime; I am prepared to meet them at any place and at any time."

Rights of Individual.

Mr. McCrea objected strongly to the amendment to the Public Inquiries Act on the ground that it was one more encroachment upon the rights of the individual to protect himself. The objection of the company immediately concerned to being investigated by the Timber Commission, he said, was not that it had anything to hide, but it objected to the inference that there was anything about it requiring investigation.

The member for Sudbury spoke at great length on the activities of the commission, and pointed out that its origin had clearly been shown to have been political; he referred to the activities of E. J. Callighan in having the probe launched, and referred to the "dual" position of R. H. Harding as counsel, declaring that Mr. Harding was trying to serve two masters.

J. W. Curry, K.C., spoke in favor of the bill, which was given second reading.