

rumour is that the member for East Grey left the party and got home before them. Will the leader of the opposition say why the member for East Grey left the party? Was it because there was a rumour that the leader of the opposition and some of his party went to wait on Archbishop Langevin?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I never heard any such rumour as that.

Mr. PATERSON. Do you know it to be a fact? What has the member for East Grey to say?

Mr. SPROULE. I say there is not a word of truth in it; that is what I say.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. PATERSON. We have a denial now from the member for East Grey, but not from the leader of the opposition.

Mr. COCHRANE. That settles the school question.

Mr. PATERSON. If there is not a word of truth in it, then the member for East Grey did not come home before the rest of the party.

Mr. SPROULE. Three or four members of the party came home before the others.

Mr. PATERSON. If there is no truth at all in it, the member for East Grey did not arrive home earlier than the others.

Mr. SPROULE. If it is a matter of any importance for the hon. gentleman to know, I can tell him that business at home compelled me to come away before the others.

Mr. PATERSON. Then there is some truth in it.

Mr. SPROULE. Not at all.

Mr. PATERSON. There is no necessity for the member for East Grey explaining something that never happened.

Mr. SPROULE. The Minister of Customs put a straight question and I answered it. His statement was, that owing to the visit of the leader of the opposition to Archbishop or Bishop, I forget his name, he said the member for East Grey left and came home. I say there is not a single word of truth in it.

Mr. PATERSON. Do you say it is not true that the leader of the opposition went to see the archbishop?

Mr. SPROULE. The Minister of Customs now says I left for home before the others, and that because of that there is some truth in his statement.

Mr. PATERSON. Yes, I said you came home before the others.

Mr. SPROULE. That was not your statement at all; it was that I had left the party on account of the visit.

Mr. PATERSON. A little further explanation will be interesting. Did the leader of the opposition and some of his party wait on Archbishop Langevin on that occasion?

Mr. SPROULE. That reminds me of a story—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Answer the question.

Mr. SPROULE. Allow me to answer it—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Answer it, yes or no.

Mr. SPROULE. It reminds me of the story of two sharp 'Alicks' putting questions to each other, and one said: Why is it you never see any dirt around the mouth of a chipmunk's hole; the answer was: Because it commences to dig at the bottom; and the other asked: How did it get there?

Mr. PATERSON. I have no doubt the hon. gentleman thought he was a 'smart Alick' until the Minister of Justice gave him his answer. But the point remains: has the member for East Grey good reason to suspect that such a horrid thing happened as that the leader of the opposition when he was in the west on a political tour, visited Archbishop Langevin?

Mr. SPROULE. If he did visit the archbishop, I would not regard it as horrid.

Mr. PATERSON. Church and state! What an exhibition hon. gentlemen opposite are making of themselves in order to try to light the fires of sectarian bigotry and race and ill-feeling in this country. Here you get behind the scenes, and see the bosom companions of these men meeting in room No. 6 and posting their letters from there.

Mr. STAPLES. Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. minister has said during my absence. I was out for a moment or two, but I have been told since I came into the chamber that he spoke of me being implicated in some way in the construction of a letter. All I can say to the hon. gentleman and this House is that, so far as my having anything to do with the construction of a letter in room No. 6 is concerned, it is absolutely untrue, and I know nothing of it. What I stated yesterday in reference to the letter were the simple facts. I was asked by the Hon. Mr. Rogers to see that that letter was immediately transmitted to the First Minister of this Dominion, and the messenger was particularly told that Mr. Rogers wanted that letter delivered to the First Minister immediately, because he was leaving that evening for Toronto.