

In my statement, I charged a great many things, in reference to Strubbe, in reference to the boiler, in reference to having employed these men Merwin and Brooks to sell some \$800,000 worth of goods, and the Prime Minister said :

I can only say to my hon. friend that I think it my duty, speaking on behalf of the government, to say that the government cannot allow these serious accusations to be made without giving the hon. gentlemen—

That is the four gentlemen referred to before, my hon. friend from East Hastings, my hon. friend from Grenville, my hon. friend the leader of the opposition and myself—

—who make them an opportunity to substantiate them. And to-morrow if the hon. gentleman wants a committee he shall have one.

Now, I have been waiting for that committee. The Prime Minister did come down and propose a committee to take up the question of the 'Arctic.' I want him to redeem the pledge he made that all the charges I made would be referred to a committee. In making that statement the other evening, I gave a quotation of \$500 for a boiler. I wrote to Messrs Goldie & McCulloch and asked the price of a boiler of the same size as the one that had been charged for in the Auditor General's Report. I learned that they had not only supplied one boiler, but they supplied two, and if you turn up the Auditor General's Report, page P—55, you will see there is one charged to Goldie & McCulloch.

One Goldie & McCullough return tubular boiler, 55 by 14, complete, \$975.

At page P—97 you will find :

Goldie & McCullough tubular steel boiler, \$975.

I had only noticed one when I wrote to a friend who wrote telling me that two were supplied. I wrote asking at what price they had supplied them. Here is his letter in reply :

Galt, Ontario, May 28, 1906.

Geo. Taylor, Esq.,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Taylor,—Yours of the 21st received, also report of your speech and copy of the 'Hansard' and general report. In reply these boilers were sold direct to Williams & Wilson for cash. Williams & Wilson are apparently their agents and yet in this case they paid Goldie & McCullough for the boilers, which I think is somewhat exceptional. One boiler was purchased in March, 1904, for \$625, the other bought in September, 1904, for \$600. Apparently they vary in price in consequence of higher or lower price of material and labour at the time of purchase.

Messrs. Goldie & McCullough have replied to Mr. Miller, giving him all particulars in connection with delivery, so that any additional information you will get from him

Mr. BENNETT. What did the department pay for them ?

Mr. TAYLOR. \$975 for each boiler or for both of them, \$1,950; while Goldie & McCullough sold them for \$1,225, so that there was a rake-off of \$725. I ask the Minister of Marine and I ask the Prime Minister to give us a committee to see if we cannot find that out of the \$800,000 worth this man Merwin sold to the department there has not been a large rake-off, when there is \$750 of rake-off on the sale of two boilers. Let the Prime Minister redeem the pledge he made me that he would grant a committee to enable us to substantiate the charges. The member for South Grey (Mr. Miller) wrote to Messrs. Goldie & McCullough to find out the truth of the statement, and Goldie & McCullough wrote him back giving him the same price and I fancy Mr. Miller has shown that to the Minister of Marine. In the face of all this the government want us to pass estimates without giving us a committee, or giving us an explanation of why the Department of Marine should take the people's money and go down to Brooks & Company of Montreal, or to Merwin, a gentleman brought here from New York purposely to sell to the government these lighthouse supplies which last year amounted to nearly \$800,000 as shown in the Auditor General's Report. They bought from Brooks or Merwin some \$60,000 or \$80,000 worth of Canadian machinery that the government could have bought themselves direct from the manufacturers. They employed Brooks, and he goes to the manufacturers to purchase boilers for Prescott or away up at Owen Sound and he was paid nearly two prices for them. Before these estimates go further I ask the minister to say that he will grant us an inquiry to find out who has taken this rake-off. I do not know where it has gone to but certainly some one has it. The department should be more careful with the public money than a private individual would be with his own money, but yet they pay this man \$975 for an article they could have purchased themselves for \$600, thus giving him a profit of \$375. They are the trustees of the people's money but they spill it out to help their political friends. Brooks & Company of New York, or Merwin, have sold nearly all the lighthouse supplies that the government have purchased for the last two or three years. Brooks is living in New York and he has an agent in Montreal, and this agent when brought before us refused to tell us what he paid for these goods. Now, I want the Minister of Marine to say that he will have the Prime Minister redeem the pledge he made to me in the House when we were last discussing this item. That pledge was that he would grant a committee of inquiry into all the charges that the four hon. gentlemen had made that night. That pledge was not to give the committee he