

for some of the things the Prime Minister has said about me at one time or another, I should not have taken advantage of my position of power and authority in parliament to serve this end; I would have brought action against him for criminal libel; for he has used expressions which I consider of that character. People who live in glass houses ought to be very careful how and where they throw stones.

I am not going to take up any time at the moment in discussing the merits of the motion. If the Prime Minister wishes to have the kind of notoriety for himself and others who are related to him which an inquiry of this kind is certain to give not only in Canada but throughout the world, he is certainly welcome to it; but I think he would be well advised—and well advised by his Minister of Justice—to have this motion withdrawn instead of having it proceeded with. As a matter of fact I think there was a general sentiment throughout this house—and I need not go further than the Conservative organ in this city to express the view of many Conservatives in the country as well as in parliament as they have been expressed since the motion was put on the order paper—that this whole business is a “tempest in a teapot,” and that it is not befitting the dignity of parliament that its time should be wasted in matters of this sort. If the time of parliament is to be taken up and the money of the people used for furthering inquiries into matters which affect the vanity or the susceptibilities of the Prime Minister, a lot of public money will be wasted to no good purpose, and I do not believe the people will endorse for one minute the object of this particular investigation.

May I add, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Gordon, who is mentioned in this motion as having made the statements referred to, did make a public retraction and apology in respect to them. The Minister of Justice says the apology was not sufficient. If it was not sufficient, and something more was required, surely there were other means of obtaining it than by asking this house, before it has begun the business of the session at all, to start an elaborate inquiry by a special committee. This thirst on the part of the Prime Minister for personal vengeance in so many directions is something that the people of this country are beginning to find very difficult to understand. It is perhaps well we should at once realize that something in the nature of a reign of terror is to be started at this session, and that we are to experience in the parliamentary sense of the term as much in the way of “frightfulness” as possible. Well, if that

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

is the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite as dictated by their leader, they must take the consequences that will inevitably follow from such a course.

Motion agreed to.

ALBERTA—BRITISH COLUMBIA BOUNDARY

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 2, respecting the boundary between the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. CAHAN: I would have preferred to explain the purpose of the bill on the second reading. This is a bill to confirm a survey made by the interprovincial boundary commission appointed in 1913 to delimit the boundary between the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

The boundary between these two provinces is defined by sections 7 and 8 of the Imperial Act 29 and 30 Victoria, chapter 67, which are as follows:

7. Until the union, British Columbia shall comprise all such territories, within the Dominion of Her Majesty, as are bounded to the south by the territories of the United States of America, to the west by the Pacific ocean and the frontier of the Russian territories in North America, to the north by the sixtieth parallel of north latitude, and to the east from the boundary of the United States northwards by the Rocky mountains and the one hundred and twentieth meridian of west longitude; and shall include Queen Charlotte's island and all other islands adjacent to the said territories, except Vancouver island and the islands adjacent thereto.

8. After the union, British Columbia shall comprise all the territories and islands aforesaid and Vancouver island and the islands adjacent thereto.

This act of the imperial parliament established a natural topographical boundary line along the crest of the Rocky mountains from the international boundary as far north as the most northerly crossing of the one hundred and twentieth meridian of west longitude and thence followed the said meridian northerly to its intersection with the sixtieth parallel of north latitude. In April 1912 the survey of the boundary was discussed between the surveyor general of dominion lands, and the surveyor general of British Columbia at the instance of the Minister of Lands for British Columbia, with the result that order in council P.C. 337 was approved on the 18th February 1913, recommending that an invitation be extended to the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia to join in a survey to define the exact boundaries. Subsequent orders in