

gration permits. I do not understand what I could have said which would make it possible for you to place such an interpretation on my statement. If you have any definite grounds for your supposition I shall be glad if you will furnish me, confidentially, if not otherwise, the names of those whom you definitely know who were in receipt of money for permits procured from this Department.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) ROBERT FORKE.

I replied to that—

Mr. SPENCE: Read the reply.

The WITNESS: This is the letter dated December 12th, 1927, at Regina, Sask. (Reading):

1666 ATHOL ST.,

REGINA, SASK., Dec. 12, 1927.

The Hon. ROBERT FORKE,  
Minister of Immigration,  
Ottawa.

DEAR MR. FORKE: Your letter of Dec. 7th reached me this morning. To say the least I was exceedingly surprised to learn that you do not recall the details of our conversation which took place in your office on March last.

I have a very excellent memory for detail and, moreover, I believe I have a reputation for never making any statement the truth of which I am not thoroughly convinced.

Now I state most advisedly that, in discussing the issuance of immigration permits, you gave me a great deal of information of the conditions which existed prior to your ministry and told me of specific instances where you had refused to issue them because you knew that those obtaining them were going to profit financially from them. You also mentioned the name of a gentleman who had occupied a position of some prominence in our parliamentary life and who represented a large urban constituency, who had obtained enough permits to pay his election expenses.

Your statements appeared to be so definite and conclusive that I accepted them without question but with a feeling that I was glad that you were determined to put an end to the practice.

Since my memory is so clear, and since I told certain friends substantially what you had told me immediately this conversation had occurred, I am quite prepared to give an accurate summary of our conversation whenever it may be necessary to do so. I am, however, of the opinion that it is only necessary for me to draw the above facts to your attention and you will thereupon remember that whatever you may have found subsequently you were, in March last, in possession of information which led you to tell me in your capacity as Minister of Immigration that the condition to which I refer had existed prior to your ministry and this Parliament. Further, that the attention of the Prime Minister had been drawn to your determination by one who had been defeated in the elections and who felt himself deprived of something to which he was entitled, but that Mr. King had informed you that you were entirely responsible for your own department.

Your very truly,

(Signed) M. J. COLDWELL.

By Hon. Mr. Ralston:

Q. Was there any reply?—A. A confidential letter.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: There is nothing confidential in anything I said.

[Mr. M. J. Coldwell.]