

"The House will note that Mr. Lee does not deny having made the declaration to the meeting, but denies only having made it to the press. As the *Citizen*, the *Toronto Globe* and several other newspapers contained the information in identical language I think that we can fairly assume that the declaration was made to the meeting of depositors. I am glad that the interpellation of my hon. friend gives me an opportunity of correcting the wrong impression given to the public. I do not believe that Mr. Lee intended wilfully to mislead the public; but the least that can be said, if he did make such a declaration, is that he should have taken the trouble of inquiring from the secretary of the executive committee as to the exact facts before making a statement which I consider unjust towards parliament and the committee."

Gentlemen, I may say that I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Lee and Mr. Weldon and some other gentlemen who accompanied them this morning, and Mr. Lee told me that there was no such meeting and no such declaration made either to the press or to the Committee of the Home Bank depositors. Mr. Lee has requested me to give him an opportunity this morning to make a statement to the Committee in that respect. Mr. Lee is present, and I think it will be the pleasure of the committee to hear the statement that he has to make in respect to that matter. May I point out that we do not want to make more fuss about it than is necessary; but the question of the Home Bank depositors has a nation-wide aspect, and we do not want the public at large in Canada to believe that Parliament or this Committee is derelict in its duty of duly considering their interests, and the problem which is before Parliament to-day. The correspondence will show, I think, that the Committee has endeavoured to give the relief committee of the Home Bank depositors all possible consideration. I am glad to state to the Committee that Mr. Lee has declared there was no such meeting of depositors and that no such declaration was made.

Mr. LEE: I came down here from Toronto to straighten this matter out. As I wired the Chairman, no such interview was given to the press and nothing that could be construed into such a statement. I believe there were some local meetings, but I say that there was no meeting of the National Committee held at which anything of this nature was said. As a matter of fact, I have been in communication with Mr. Mitchell, the former Chairman, and we knew all along that this Committee was going to hear us. I think it was only my duty to your Committee to come here from Toronto and make this explanation. Far be it from us to make any such statement when we know the facts to be otherwise.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the question is closed to the satisfaction of all concerned. Mr. Ross, Secretary of the Bankers' Association wishes to make an explanation in regard to an answer which he gave to a question when he was before the Committee.

H. T. Ross recalled.

WITNESS: On page 334 of the proceedings a question was asked me by Mr. Healy.

"Q. Had \$2,000,000 of Dominion notes been in circulation by the Home Bank instead of \$2,000,000 of the Home Bank notes, there would not have been this loss?"

and I am credited with the answer—

A. "No, it would not have been lost."

[Mr. Henry T. Ross.]