find that I am right. Now, is it a fact that the Minister of Customs and Excise (Mr. Bureau) went in there and acted without an order in council at all?

Mr. ROBB: It is possible he had the order in council.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, he had not.

Mr. ROBB: My right hon. friend knows that the Minister of Customs and Excise is a good lawyer and he would not exceed the limitations of the act in the administration of it. *

Mr. MEIGHEN: He is a good lawyer but—

Mr. ROBB: This question however is not now before the House—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes it is.

Mr. ROBB: —except by way of review.

Mr. MEIGHEN: He (Mr. Bureau) is a good lawyer but he is a lot more daring politician. The fact is that he had no order in council, for I wrote to the privy council to find out and received the reply that he had none at all. So that if what the Acting Minister of Finance tells us to-day is correct, the Minister of Customs and Excise, without the authority provided by parliament, went to the boundary and did what he pleased, instructing his officials to value as he liked. Are we to assume that this was the case? I can read the minister the letter which says that no order in council whatever was passed under the authority of section 47(A).

Mr. ROBB: I will take your word for it.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister will admit that the Minister of Customs had no authority to act at all except on the basis of an order in council to be passed after section 47 (A) had been adopted. He has section 47(A) there and can read it and tell the House whether or not the Minister of Customs had any authority to act without the order in council.

Mr. ROBB: I will accept my right hon. friend's word for it if he has been in communication on the subject.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is one thing; but the minister has the law, and reading that law I want him to admit, or to deny, that the Minister of Customs had any authority to act unless the order in council gave him that authority.

Mr. HOEY: Was he obliged to have an order in council in each case?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, a general order, I think.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Does the leader of the opposition mean that all collections made subsequently would be illegal?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The valuations made by the minister without the authority of the order in council were illegal.

Mr. GOOD: And when did that occur?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not know; I did not know it had occurred myself, but the Acting Minister of Finance says that the Minister of Customs acted as he did.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): But if the valuations were illegal, then at least some portion of the collections must have been illegal.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Perhaps so.

Mr. ROBB: My right hon. friend will observe that section 46 of the act gives the minister some latitude.

Mr. MEIGHEN: But not the latitude he gets under section 47(A). Now the fact is —and I do not think any hon. members will be surprised, for it is in accordance with history—that the candidate representing the government in the election in the county of Yale circulated literature and asserted to the electors of that riding that this government, under the authority of this act, had given the farmers there higher protection in fruit than they had ever got under the Conservative regime. This was the appeal on which hon. gentlemen went before the electors in that constituency.

Mr. ROBB: My right hon. friend possibly denied that statement.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I knew that they could do it under the law, and I assumed that doing it, they did it legally. But now we are informed that it was done illegally. The fact is, as I say, that the Liberal candidate in Yale county, representing a government that claims to be determined to get reciprocity back again, with free fruit, circularized the whole riding proclaiming that this government had given higher protection on fruit to the farmers out there than they had ever enjoyed before. And I have his circular with me.

Mr. ROBB: Did you believe it?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The assumption usually is that such assertions are false. But it is bad enough to do that in violation of all professions made in this House and in the country,