

Mr. Roche, a Member of the King's Privy Council, laid on the Table, correspondence, memoranda, &c., in respect to the issue of a patent for the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, in Township 49, Range 26, west of the 2nd Meridian, to one Arthur Donaldson, bearing date the 19th November, 1912. (*Sessional Papers, No. 147.*)

On motion of Mr. Middlebro, seconded by Mr. Meighen,

Ordered, That Mr. R. C. Miller, now in the custody of the Acting Sergeant-at-Arms, be brought before the Bar of this House to answer questions which on the fourteenth of February, instant, he did refuse to answer on his examination before the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts and which he did also refuse to answer before the Bar of this House on Tuesday the eighteenth instant.

The Acting Sergeant-at-Arms reported, That in obedience to the Order of the House, Mr. R. C. Miller is in attendance.

Mr. Middlebro moved, seconded by Mr. Meighen, That the following question be put to Mr. R. C. Miller, who is at the Bar of this House:—

To whom did you pay the sum of forty-one thousand and twenty-six dollars for the purpose of securing contracts from the Government of the Dominion of Canada, amounting to one hundred and seventeen thousand dollars or thereabouts between the month of June, 1907, until you ceased to be President of the Diamond Light and Heating Company in June, 1911, as alleged by you on your examination before the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts on Friday the fourteenth of February, 1913? which was agreed to.

Mr. Miller.—Before making my statement, I would ask the privilege of having my Counsel, Mr. A. E. Harvey, K.C., of Montreal with me, and after I have finished, that he be allowed to make a few remarks on my behalf, if it is so desired.

Mr. Middlebro moved, seconded by Mr. Meighen, That the witness be allowed consultation with his solicitor; which was agreed to.

Mr. Miller read a statement to the House as follows:—Mr. Speaker, with your kind permission, I wish to entirely withdraw the statement that my Counsel made at the time of my first appearance at this Bar, as apparently he did not quite understand the case, owing to the short time at his disposal for considering it.

Part of that statement was that one of my reasons for declining to answer the question was that it would incriminate me. Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to especially withdraw that statement, as I did not authorize my Counsel to make it, as I was in absolutely no fear that anything I have done would incriminate me in any manner or form. The main reason that I wished to have had given was that owing to litigation now pending, which arose out of this matter, I deemed it inadvisable to make the facts known, as it might influence the results of those cases. I wish to explain that my action in declining to answer was not because I wished to defy this Hon. House. Far be it from that, as there is not a man in Canada who has more respect for the recognized governing bodies of our country, and especially this Hon. House which represents the people. But, when I know that I have done nothing that in any way affects the public of Canada, notwithstanding any opinions to the contrary, and when I also know that a few self-constituted enemies clandestinely so worked that they became the Directors of the Company of which I was the President for so many years, and of which I at the present time own about one-third of the outstanding stock, and for the purpose, not of getting an accounting from me, but in my humble opinion, for the ulterior purpose, by taking advantage of technicalities, of extorting money from me to divide among themselves.

Mr. Speaker interrupted by putting the question as directed by the resolution to the witness.