

We are constantly having reports as to his activities.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister finds fault with me for not reading the papers, but he does not listen to me when I ask a question. I asked what he was doing when the minister appointed him.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend knows that I have not the very best of hearing. I have one ear that is no good.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am sorry; I did not know that.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: But I often hear more of what the right hon. gentleman says than is good for me or good for anyone else. At the same time, I do not hear everything he says. What was he doing before he went overseas? He went over to Australia with Mr. Ruddick to find out what he had to compete against when he went to the Old Country. Then before that he was general superintendent and manager of the Co-operative Creameries in Regina.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I will try again; this is the third time now; and I will speak loudly enough this time.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Thank you.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister evidently has never heard me aright, otherwise he would not have the erroneous opinions he has now.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Oh, I heard all about the embargo proposition.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We will put an embargo on the minister's humbug and try to get down to facts. What was Wilson doing when the minister secured his appointment to this new task in the employ of the Dominion government?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: He had just got back from New Zealand when the position was established. My hon. friend knows the rigmarole that you have to go through to get an appointment made. First, you have to establish the position, then you have to go to the Civil Service Commission to classify it, then you have to get it confirmed by the cabinet, then after a while you advertise it. I do not know what he was doing during the four or five weeks that it took to make the necessary arrangements. I do not know what he was doing then; I presume he was waiting to see what the result would be. He was on his way back from New Zealand, and arrived in time to apply for the position, and I may say that he got the appointment in competition with seventy-five others.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister's influence was important then, but I think after his whole record is known to the commission, they will not pay so much attention to his recommendations again. I did not ask what he was doing while the minister was getting the office created. I asked what he was doing before. So that the minister cannot possibly misunderstand me, I will put it this way: Was he not manager of what was known as the Co-operative Creameries in Saskatchewan?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friend's hearing must be worse than mine, for I have said that two or three times already. I said that he went to New Zealand before he got this appointment, and that previous to that he was manager or superintendent of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What kind of success did he make of that?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: As long as I was there he made a good success of it; I do not know about afterwards. There has been an investigation recently in the Saskatchewan legislature, through the Agricultural committee, in Mr. Wilson's absence and without anyone there to represent him, and it was claimed there that he did not make a good success of it. I cannot speak as to that. I know he defended himself by sending a letter to the Agricultural committee, but for reasons I do not know the letter was not made public.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Was the company in a successful position when he left it? It was a public company.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: No, I do not think it was, according to my information, but there is nothing in the report of the Agricultural committee to indicate that he was in any way responsible for that. I do not know whether my right hon. friend saw the report of that committee. There was evidence given by a number of witnesses throwing some blame on Mr. Wilson for a lack of business management. I have not the report of the committee here, but at the rate we are passing these items I think I shall be able to have it for the next sitting. I can say that in the report of that committee sitting in Regina there is absolutely no reference to any dereliction of duty on the part of Mr. Wilson, and that report is all I have to go by.

Mr. MEIGHEN: He was manager when the thing was wrecked. Was the wreck caused by the absence from the province of the minister or the presence there of Mr. Wilson?