

greatly dissatisfied at the conditions under which he was working. Recommendation upon recommendation was pigeonholed, advice was neglected, and representations put on one side, until at last an impossible situation was created.

After carefully reviewing the whole case he decided to write a memorandum dealing with the whole situation for the following reasons:

1. At the time there was no document on file giving any collective statement of what had been recommended or thought necessary in order to carry out the scheme then in hand; nor indeed to show that he as an adviser had recommended anything. He considered that such a document should be on record for the following reasons:—

(a) If the Liberal party were returned in the impending election, they would come in with increased power and might push on with the naval question; in that case such a collective statement would be required.

(b) If the Conservative party were returned, the new administrators would want to know how matters stood, what was and what was not considered necessary, and there would be some thing to lay before them.

2. If the Liberal party were returned, Commander Roper intended the memorandum to form the grounds of his resignation should they again refuse to move in the matter.

The memorandum was commenced early in August. The writing of it took some time. It was finished just before the election, and he made a point of writing the covering letter and of handing the document in before the elections had taken place, with the express object of getting it done so that, whatever might be the result of the election, it could not be said to have influenced him. No one asked him to write the memorandum and he undertook to write it because it was in his judgment a proper and necessary course to take.

It will be seen that the aspersions cast upon this officer's honour and integrity are without foundation. The memorandum was not written to order, but of his own accord, and in accordance with what he conceived to be his duty.

Mr. CARVELL: Who was the author of the memorandum which the minister has just read?

Mr. HAZEN: This memorandum is made up—I candidly tell the House—from information that I have received from Commander Roper and from officials in the Naval Department, the very best information that can be got.

Before the election, that memorandum together with the covering letter was handed to Admiral Kingsmill as Chief of Staff. Admiral Kingsmill refused to forward it to the department at that time on the ground that it was not the duty of Commander Roper to make a report of that nature. Commander Roper made the report and handed it in before the election, and his report is worthy of attention. I am not putting it forward for that purpose; but I feel, in view of the attacks that

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have been made upon him and the aspersions that have been cast upon his character, that it is only right and proper that a memorandum of that sort, which I believe is correct in every particular, should be placed on 'Hansard,' and that the charge should not be spread abroad that the document was not made in good faith but that it was made simply to influence the debate on the question which is now before us.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I am glad that my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has made the statement which he has just made, because, reading his speech of last year on the preliminary naval debate which took place during the first session of this Parliament and reading his speech on the 12th of December last, one would be inclined to believe that Commander Roper, being an officer of the Canadian Naval Department, had written that memorandum at the request of the then minister.

Mr. HAZEN: I do not want my hon. friend to get away from the fact. In the speech which I made in the session preceding this one, I made no reference at all to the memorandum of Commander Roper. I simply referred to the memorandum of Admiral Kingsmill. The first references that I made to the memorandum of Commander Roper was in the speech on the naval question which I made after the speech of my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition on the 12th day of December.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I accept my hon. friend's statement, but I am strongly under the impression that last year, when matters pertaining to the naval branch of his department were discussed in committee, the question of the memorandum of Commander Roper was broached. At all events the impression to be gathered from the speech delivered by my hon. friend in December, 1912, was, in my humble judgment, that the memorandum had been written at my request when I was Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. HAZEN: Not a word was said to justify that.

Mr. LEMIEUX: It was not necessary to say it in so many words; that impression could be gathered from the tenor of the whole speech. My hon. friend has justified what I said a moment ago; first, that, as Minister of Marine and Fisheries, I never requested Commander Roper to make a report; second, that Commander Roper sneaked that report, in spite of his chief, Admiral Kingsmill, into the Department of Marine and Fisheries; and third, as my hon. friend seems to be in a confidential mood, I may say that I know by information from my predecessor in the