

ORDER OF REFERENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

OTTAWA, February 8, 1932.

Resolved,—That a special committee consisting of seven members of this House to be named hereafter be appointed to enquire into certain charges and allegations made by the Honourable George N. Gordon, K.C., a member of the King's Privy Council for Canada, upon a public occasion in the City of Hamilton, on the 6th day of January, 1932, as reported in *The Globe* newspaper published at the City of Toronto on the 7th day of January, 1932, and also in respect of a further statement made by the said George N. Gordon at Lindsay on the 8th of January, 1932, and published in the said *Globe* newspaper on the 9th day of January, 1932, and also published in other newspapers throughout Canada, reflecting upon the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada and a Member of this House, in regard to matters of public concern; and which said charges and allegations published in the said *Globe* newspaper are in the following terms and were published on the following respective dates—

January 7, 1932.—“The bald charge that Premier Bennett had financed the honeymoon trip of his sister to Europe out of the Canadian Treasury, and that he had obtained a new private railway car for his own use at a cost to Canada of \$125,000, was made to local Liberals to-night by Hon. G. N. Gordon, K.C., who was Deputy Speaker in the Federal House under the King Government.”

“He criticized Premier Bennett for having appointed his brother-in-law as Canada's envoy at Washington, and then charged that the cost of Mrs. Herridge's honeymoon trip to Europe had been paid for by Premier Bennett out of the Canadian Treasury.”

January 9, 1932.—“I have been too long in the public eye to make statements that are not based on facts,” Mr. Gordon said, adding that only a small section of his reference to Mr. Herridge appeared correctly in *The Globe*. A large audience in Hamilton heard every word he said, and he followed his notes very closely, Mr. Gordon continued.

“Major Herridge was Mr. Bennett's brother-in-law, and this was his honeymoon trip,” said Mr. Gordon. “He also went to London to argue an appeal before the Privy Council, so if he was a full-time Canadian legal adviser he should not have taken the full time preparing and arguing the appeal before the Privy Council and thus neglecting his duty as the Premier's legal adviser, which Mr. Bennett permitted him to do.”

“Mr. Herridge, according to Mr. Gordon, remained a long time in London as a Canadian official, and was in the pay of the Dominion Government during the time of his honeymoon trip.”

With power to call for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses upon oath and to report from time to time to this House.

Attest.

ARTHUR BEAUCHESNE,
Clerk of the House.