

I would like to call special attention to that. He continued:

And as a matter of fact, word came back to us that they were astonished at Washington that we should keep in our employ a man who would write such a letter.

Make a note of that. Then the discussion continues as follows:

Mr. Meighen: Who said that? Will the minister tell us who is responsible for the statement that the officials in Washington had expressed astonishment at the fact that, as he puts it, we should have kept such a man in our employ?

Mr. Motherwell: It came through Dr. Mohler.

Mr. Meighen: Very well; but who said it?

Mr. Motherwell: I understand it came from Dr. Mohler.

Mr. Meighen: Did Dr. Mohler say that he was astonished?

Mr. Motherwell: Yes.

It appears to be very clear that this statement was credited to Dr. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the United States. I am rather surprised that the minister should make any such statement, particularly considering the friendly feeling in that country. We are doing a large trade in live stock with the United States, and it is necessary that we should be on the most friendly relations with them. I wrote Dr. Mohler quoting these portions of Hansard, and sent him a copy, so that he would have everything before him very clearly. My letter reads as follows:

Ottawa, May 17, 1924.

DR. J. R. MOHLER,
Chief of Bureau of Animal Industry,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. MOHLER,—I have had the pleasure of meeting you on one or two occasions in Chicago, being introduced by the late Dr. J. G. Rutherford. You will perhaps remember me too as Minister of Agriculture for Canada during the latter part of the late administration.

I am forwarding to you herewith Hansard containing report of the proceedings in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon, May 16th. You will note that a debate was on concerning the retirement of Dr. Fred. Torrance, late Veterinary Director General.

During the debate (on page 2238) Honourable Mr. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, made the following statement—"and as a matter of fact word came back to us that they were astonished at Washington that we should keep in our employ a man who would write such..." On being further questioned you will notice that Mr. Motherwell stated "it came through Dr. Mohler." The question was then put, "Did Dr. Mohler say that he was astonished?" Mr. Motherwell replied "Yes".

In justice to Dr. Torrance I think this matter should be cleared up and I would ask you to be good enough to let me have a letter at your earliest convenience clearly outlining what happened. The debate in Hansard is rather lengthy but you are particularly referred to on pages 2311, 2312, 2316 and 2332 all of which I have marked in the enclosed copy.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours faithfully,

[Mr. Tolmie.]

Dr. Mohler replied to that letter as follows:

Dr. S. F. Tolmie,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Dr. TOLMIE,—Replying to your letter of May 17, I wish to inform you that the statements referred to in Hansard of May 16, 1924, page 2323, as coming either "through" me or "from" me are incorrect. I neither made such statements nor have I ever held such views. In fact, my opinion of Dr. Torrance is expressed in my letter to him of July 20, 1923, copy attached, and I have had no reason since then to change those views. You will note in that letter that I did express surprise but my letter shows clearly that the surprise was regarding the news of the change in the administrative head of the Health of Animals branch. Likewise in my letter to Dr. Hilton of July 20, 1923, copy attached, I again state that "the farewell of Dr. Torrance to the members of the staff was read with surprise and deep regret." However, this expression of surprise with its context should give no one a basis for claiming "that they were astonished at Washington that we should keep in our employ a man who would write such a letter."

Neither is it accurate to say that all of the members of my staff knew about this letter of October 28, 1922, from Dr. Torrance. His letter was marked "confidential" and has been so held up to the present time. The only persons that have seen it are my secretary to whom I dictated my reply of October 31, 1922, and my file clerk who takes care of such correspondence. This morning I have asked seven of my division chiefs about their knowledge of this letter and of course no one had ever heard of it before, nor did they know the reason of Dr. Torrance's resignation. Two of these men were educated in Canadian colleges and one of them is a Canadian by birth. In concluding I trust you know me well enough to realize that I would not be so indiscreet as to pass judgment on matters of this kind pertaining to a sister organization.

J. R. MOHLER.

Under date of July 20, 1923 Dr. Mohler writes to Dr. Frederick Torrance, as follows:

July 20, 1923.

Personal.

Dr. F. Torrance,
c/o Health of Animals Branch,
Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Dr. TORRANCE,—The July summary of the Health of Animals Branch of the Canadian Department of Agriculture came to my desk this morning containing your farewell to the members of the staff.

The news of this change in the administrative head of the Health of Animals Branch came as a surprise and it is needless to tell you that I personally and also your many friends in this bureau sincerely regret to learn that you have severed your official connection with the department.

I want to congratulate you on the enviable record you have made as Veterinary-Director General and to thank you for the official courtesy and consideration which this bureau has always received from your office. The official relations between the Canadian Health of Animals Branch and this bureau have always been very cordial and it is expected that they will continue under your successor. You have my best wishes for continued success in whatever activities you may engage.

Cordially,

J. R. MOHLER,
Chief of Bureau.