

Personal

1666 ATHOL ST.,

REGINA, SASK., Nov. 27th, 1927.

The Hon. ROBERT FORKE,
Minister of Immigration,
Ottawa.

DEAR MR. FORKE: You will probably note from press despatches that a great deal has been made of a statement I made at the Sons of England Hall in this city last Wednesday evening.

In the course of an address on immigration I made the suggestion that at times during the past few years when the officials were placing bars against certain classes of immigrants, permits were given to those who found difficulty in getting in, for a fee, and that, to the credit of the present Minister it should be stated, this had been stopped.

In the discussion which followed my address, Mr. Milton Campbell suggested that these were rumours. In my reply, I assured Mr. Campbell that these were not rumours and that certain permits had been issued for a hundred dollar fee, and that I knew of persons, including members of Parliament at the time, who had secured these permits for fees. This was written up rather startlingly and evidently sent broadcast over the Dominion, eliciting a carefully worded rejoinder from your deputy, Mr. Egan. When apprised of this over the telephone I replied as indicated in the press-clipping enclosed. Yesterday, I was out of the city, but I find that the *Leader* has editorial reference to my remarks.

You will, no doubt, remember our conversation in this connection last spring when you gave me the information, amongst others, to which I referred the other evening. Our discussion was quite front and was not of a confidential nature so that I felt, when my statement met with some question, I was at liberty to make the explanation.

I would regret very much to cause you any personal inconvenience or worry, but I feel that since this matter has been given some publicity it will no doubt come directly to your attention, and I am hopeful that such steps will be taken as will teach the persons responsible for this abuse of immigration permits a well-deserved lesson.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. J. COLDWELL.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Now, read the reply.

By Hon. Mr. Ralston:

Q. That is not marked "Personal"?—A. No, nor "Confidential".

The WITNESS (reading):

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION,
OTTAWA, CANADA, December 7th, 1927.

M. J. COLDWELL, Esq., Alderman,
Regina, Sask.

DEAR MR. COLDWELL,—Upon my return to Ottawa yesterday your letter of November 27th has been received. I note what you say concerning the conversation we had last spring with reference to the issuance of permits. I do not recall the conversation but I wish to emphasize most distinctly that I was at no time in a position nor did I ever say that Members of Parliament were trafficking for personal gain in immi-

[Mr. M. J. Coldwell.]