

honorary capacity. I have no doubt he will discharge his duties with fairness, impartiality, and thoroughness. So far as the accountants are concerned, they are men, as I understand, of the highest standing in their profession, and men whose report with regard to some matters that are not dealt with fully in the report of Mr. O'Connor, must be accepted with every assurance that it is fair and correct.

Mr. NESBITT: I have nothing to say against Mr. Henderson; I have only to say that he is not an auditor, he is not a book-keeper, and he would be no use in the world in guiding these two men, who are perfectly capable of auditing any accounts.

Mr. KYTE: This Government have established several new records since they came into office, but I think that in the matter of investigating investigators they have established a record which probably will retain for them the laurels for many years. In the past, when the public interest required that an investigation be held, a public functionary was charged with the duty, and he would not be so charged unless he had the ability to discharge the functions of his position. When he made his report that was the end of it so far as the general public was concerned. This is not the first time that a royal commission has been appointed for the purpose of making inquiries in the public interest, but this Government, finding that the report was not satisfactory to themselves or their friends, have gone further and appointed another inquirer to investigate the conduct of the investigator. This is the second time within the last few months that the Government has taken that course. When Mr. O'Connor was appointed to inquire into the conditions with regard to the proprietors of cold storage warehouses and their relation to the cost of food products, I think the people generally were satisfied that he would make a thorough investigation and a perfectly honest report. He has made his report. Friends of the Government are hurt; they complain, and the Government good-naturedly appoints a court of appeal for their friends who feel aggrieved. This court of appeal is going to sit on the findings of a Commission appointed by the Government and paid out of the public treasury.

That the public have some interest in cold storage plants would be obvious from the fact that large subsidies have been paid from time to time by this Government to assist in erecting these cold storage warehouses. The Government are co-partners

[Sir Robert Borden.]

with the proprietors in respect of these institutions, and if ever there was a subject that properly and fairly called for public inquiry it is the conduct of the proprietors of these cold storage warehouses.

Mr. O'Connor made his report. I have no doubt the public had every confidence in the correctness of the conclusions at which he arrived, but the friends of the Government, who feel aggrieved, have secured the consent of this Government to the appointment of another commission. So that by the time this inquiry is concluded the friends of the Government will have such a report as will suit them, and such as they seek to have, all of which is to be at the expense of the public. With reference to Mr. Henderson, whose name was mentioned here as the chairman of this commission, he is the gentleman who a year ago, appeared for Colonel J. Wesley Allison before the Royal Commission to inquire into certain allegations arising out of the expenditure of public moneys by the Militia Department. No person had any objection to Colonel J. Wesley Allison securing the services of Mr. Henderson. He discharged his duties faithfully to his client, I have no doubt. But he was selected by Colonel Allison because he was a friend of the Government. Mr. Henderson is very close to the Government, and as Colonel Allison was very close to the Government at that time, or, at all events, pretty close to certain members of the Government, it seemed desirable that he should be entrusted with Colonel Allison's defence before that commission. I think I heard the right hon. Premier state that Mr. Henderson's position was purely an honorary one, and I assume, from that, that he is not to be paid for his services by the Government. Is that correct?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It is correct.

Mr. KYTE: Mr. Henderson had a good client a year ago; if I mistake not he had two good clients, because, while he was retained by Colonel Allison, I rather suspect that his services were paid for by the Government. There was a large array of counsel who took part in the proceedings, and it would be rather odd if Mr. Henderson were not paid by the Government, if he rendered a bill for his services to the Department of Justice. I say, then, that if Mr. Henderson, undertakes to discharge these duties which have been assigned to him without compensation it is perhaps because he was so well remunerated for the services he performed