

Mr. DUNNING: I am sorry I cannot return the compliment.

Mr. BENNETT: No, you would not understand it. Now, Mr. Chairman, in view of what has been said, we might as well take this thing seriously and leisurely.

Mr. DUNNING: That is right.

An hon. MEMBER: Haven't you been serious up to now?

Mr. BENNETT: Well, I thought the hon. gentleman the other day made admissions that were sufficiently serious for any of us in this house who understand the English language. Now, Mr. Chairman, I was proceeding to say that the Vancouver situation was a settlement of outstanding claims against the Canadian Northern Railway Company. Those claims involved this country in many millions of dollars. When the agreement was made for the building of an hotel it was signed and sent back to this city. The then Acting Minister of Railways (Sir Henry Drayton) at once had his attention directed to the fact that as the supply bill had not carried there was a question as to the legality of an appropriation by governor general's warrant to meet any possible claim there might be with respect to the hotel. In other words, there was no parliamentary sanction with respect to the money that would enable the hotel to be built. That is the position with respect to that. I have no hesitation in saying that I pointed that out. It was subsequently discovered by the legal gentlemen connected with the department to be a correct statement of the situation. The contract was not signed. It was not proposed to sign it when that was found to be the condition. Then the statement was made that the hon. gentleman referred to last evening as to whether he desired to sign it himself. That is the reason I have made the protest, and if this house does not prorogue to-night I will have an opportunity to deal with it more fully on Monday, but in view of the desire to prorogue I shall make no further observations at the moment.

Mr. DUNNING: My hon. friend has made one statement with respect to the Vancouver hotel which, under the rules, I am not permitted to describe correctly. It has a bearing upon my association with the negotiations with the city of Vancouver prior to the dissolution of parliament in 1926, and it has also to do with what the shadow government then in office did or did not do in reference to an agreement to build an hotel in Vancouver.

My hon. friend stated in the plainest terms that the Liberal government had completed the arrangement. Those were his words.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what Mr. McCrossan, the city solicitor of Vancouver, said.

Mr. DUNNING: I sat down when my hon. friend requested it. Will he now kindly keep quiet?

Mr. BENNETT: I will see.

Mr. DUNNING: My hon. friend stated in the plainest of terms—I find he stated it on the word of somebody else outside this house altogether—that the government did so and so. Apparently he does not yet know, or would pretend that he does not know, that any action of that sort by a government is represented by an order of council which is of record. He knows perfectly well that if a decision had been taken by this government to lease or build any hotel at Vancouver, that decision would be found in the records of the Privy Council. There is no such order in council. My hon. friend knew when he spoke that there was no such order.

Mr. BENNETT: He did not. Now, Mr. Chairman, that remark will have to be withdrawn.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. BENNETT: No, that remark is unparliamentary, absolutely, under the rules. There may be no misapprehension about that. It might as well be realized even if this house does not prorogue to-night.

Mr. DUNNING: I await your ruling, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. gentleman says he did not have knowledge, certainly his word must be accepted.

Mr. DUNNING: I will accept his word. Of course I accept also the position in which he puts himself, that he knew—that is what he said—that a transaction had been completed by this government—

Mr. BENNETT: I said the transaction had been.

Mr. DUNNING: That the transaction had been completed by this government; and now he says he did not know whether an order in council had been passed in respect to it.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not know yet.

Mr. DUNNING: Let me go further. I trust I have cleared up that point. I have a particular interest in it, Mr. Chairman, for the reason that continuous and steady pressure