

Q. And you went there the 1st of June, 1931?—A. Yes. In the interval I employed myself in putting my own private business in shape so that I could go there.

Q. So there were only three months between the appointment until the time you went there?—A. Yes, April, May and June.

Witness retired.

Mr. DUFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like to call Mr. W. A. Fraser.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee has asked for no other witnesses.

WILLIAM A. FRASER, called and sworn.

*By Mr. Duff:*

Q. Mr. Fraser, you are the member for Northumberland?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In the Province of Ontario?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you attended a banquet given by the members of the Liberal Party at Cobourg on January the 15th, 1932?—A. I did.

Q. How many people were present at that gathering, approximately?—A. Between 400 and 500.

Q. Was Mr. Gordon there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. He made a speech that evening?—A. He did.

Q. Were there any other prominent men there besides Mr. Gordon who made speeches, or honoured the occasion with their presence?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who were they?—A. Mr. W. H. Moore, M.P., Mr. Fred McArthur, M.P.P.

Q. What constituency does he represent?—A. Northumberland County.

Q. Liberal?—A. Conservative. The Rev. Dr. Boyle, and J. J. Duffus of Peterboro.

Q. Well, Mr. Fraser, could you tell the committee in a few words what Mr. Gordon said during the course of his remarks explaining the speeches which he had made previously at Hamilton and Lindsay?—A. If my memory serves me correctly, Mr. Gordon, on being called on to speak that night, opened his remarks by referring to newspaper reports,—I believe he mentioned the *Toronto Globe*—in connection with a speech he had made in Hamilton and Lindsay, and he said, in referring to those speeches, that he had apparently made statements based on information that he had received from sources, not mentioning the sources, in connection with Mr. Herridge, and I believe the Prime Minister, that were not correct. And he had ascertained afterwards that they were not correct. He stated that he was very sorry that he had made the statement, or very sorry he had done Mr. Herridge or the Prime Minister any injustice, and that he wished for me to understand that such were his feelings.

*By Mr. Duff:*

Q. You saw the statements made in the *Toronto Globe* regarding the Hamilton and Lindsay speeches of Mr. Gordon?—A. I did at the time, yes.

Q. When you heard Mr. Gordon make this explanation, were you satisfied in your own mind that that was a suitable retraction to make regarding the Prime Minister and Mr. Herridge?—A. Frankly, I was. And not knowing, of course, that Mr. Gordon was going to make any reference to it whatsoever, I felt at the time, personally, that Mr. Gordon had done the proper thing. That was my own impression.