

*Charges by Hon. G. N. Gordon*

before him. That is our wish regarding the present Minister of Finance. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate my good friend who has held the portfolio of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Gordon) upon his appointment to the portfolio of Labour. I had some experience with the hon. gentleman last summer and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that there is not a member of this house who stands higher in my esteem than does the hon. gentleman who has just been appointed to the office of Minister of Labour. May I again congratulate both hon. gentlemen, repeating that I have no advice to offer the Prime Minister.

## ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BENNETT moved the adjournment of the house.

He said: I may say that there are no orders in council with respect to the St. Lawrence waterway. I made perfectly certain that this was so; there has been nothing in the way of orders in council since last session.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 3.50 p.m.

**Monday, February 8, 1932**

The house met at three o'clock.

## CHARGES BY HON. G. N. GORDON

## MOTION FOR SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): At this point I wish to make a motion of which I gave notice on Thursday last and which appeared in the votes and proceedings of this house. In doing so may I be permitted to say that the incident which has given rise to this motion occurred a short time ago in the city of Hamilton.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend (Mr. Guthrie) but I suggest to him that, as no intimation was given that this matter would be discussed this afternoon, customary procedure would not be violated if he permitted the debate on the address to proceed until His Excellency had been thanked for his address and then took up other matters. That is the correct procedure and I hope my hon. friend will follow it.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I believe I am following correct procedure. The orders of the day [Mr. Gardiner.]

announced that at a certain juncture motions would be called, and in the regular way I am introducing a motion of which regular notice has been given. The matter is of sufficient consequence to engage the attention of the house for a few minutes. I do not anticipate prolonged discussion; personally I intend to offer very few remarks.

The incident to which I refer occurred at the city of Hamilton a few weeks ago, and as it involves a very dark reflection upon a man who is Prime Minister of Canada and the chief adviser of His Excellency the Governor General, and pertains to matters of public concern, and as the allegation is said to come from a man who served as a member in this house and was at one time a member of the government of this country and is yet one of the king's privy councillors for Canada, the matter is of added importance. To my mind it is of sufficient concern and consequence to be brought to the attention of the house at the earliest possible moment. An opportunity will be afforded to the Hon. Mr. Gordon to state whether in fact he did make the statements as set out in the newspapers and as quoted in the notice of motion, and he will be given an opportunity to state what if any foundation he had for making such statements. This matter concerns the honour of the first citizen of Canada, a member of this house, and concerns also the dignity of the House of Commons. For that reason it is of the utmost importance to proceed at once.

When a matter such as this reaches the press it is looked upon by newspapers throughout the whole length and breadth of Canada as front page material, and for that reason receives wide publicity. Many of us have waited from day to day and from week to week to see if there would be any explanation or withdrawal of the statement. I understand that at a meeting held in the city of Cobourg about the middle of January the Hon. Mr. Gordon made a statement which might be regarded as a somewhat belated explanation of or apology for his remarks pertaining to Mr. Herridge. The present motion does not complain about anything said with respect to Mr. Herridge; it seeks only to investigate the remarks made by Mr. Gordon concerning the Prime Minister of Canada. Mr. Gordon has been singularly silent in regard to any explanation or apology on that branch of the subject.

I beg therefore to move seconded by Mr. Stevens:

That a special committee consisting of seven members of this house to be named hereafter be appointed to enquire into certain charges