

cerns. It is stated that he associates himself with experts, that he goes from one concern to another and finally publishes a lengthy report. In my judgment he seems to reach final conclusion in that report. He speaks of the patriots who live on the earnings of the people, and treats them in a very high-handed way. Mr. O'Connor must be pretty sure of his findings and conclusions to assail, as he does in his report, the gentlemen who control the cold storage establishments in Canada. Mr. O'Connor has made that report. It is before the country, it is printed and distributed; and immediately we see in the press the counterpart of that report in the publication of the defence of the other party.

Mr. C. A. WILSON: A paid advertisement too.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Of course. And the Government appoint a commission to revise the work of their own commission. In all candour, I say to the right hon. gentleman that I do not understand those proceedings, nor will the people of the country understand them. The people have confidence in Mr. O'Connor's integrity and in the work he has performed for the Government. So I submit, that the suggestion of my hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carvell) should be heeded by the country. The people, the consumers, ought to be specifically represented before that commission, or they will not have any confidence in the report which will be made on the report of Mr. O'Connor. The people ought to be represented by the best legal talent, because this is a very serious question. There have been more rumblings in the public since the publication of the O'Connor report than I have heard on all questions that have arisen since the beginning of the war. It seems to me that under those circumstances it is the duty of the Government, in connection with the work of the commission investigating the Government's own commission, to see that every safeguard is provided for the people of the country, the consumers, who are paying such huge profits to cold storage companies, and who are not in a mood to be laughed at. It will not do if this commission is appointed only to whitewash the gentlemen who in this report of Mr. O'Connor have been branded before the public.

Mr. NESBITT: I have nothing to say against Mr. Henderson or any other lawyer, but this is purely an auditing commission; it is an audit of the statement of these men

who differ with Mr. O'Connor. You could not get any more capable men to audit it than Price, Waterhouse & Co., or the Clarkson people. What they want of any one to guide them is more than the business people of the country can understand. No business man would choose a lawyer to be at the head of a commission that is an auditing commission. No one can tell Price, Waterhouse & Co., or Clarkson & Co. their business in auditing, and why Mr. Henderson or any other lawyer should be appointed on a commission to guide such men as that, is more than I can comprehend. It only spoils the result of the commission, whatever that may be.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not think my hon. friend need be under an apprehension that it will spoil the result of the commission. Mr. Henderson is a practising lawyer in the city of Ottawa. Notwithstanding what the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) says with regard to him, I understand and thoroughly believe that he has a reputation of the highest character as a member of the Bar, and that his work for many years past as drainage referee in Ontario has been most satisfactory in every way. He has conducted the proceedings before him in such a way as to indicate that he has judicial temperament and he has undertaken—

Mr. CARVELL: Does the right hon. gentleman say, a judicial mind?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I said judicial temperament. I suppose that men who afterwards ascend the Bench and are distinguished by their judicial temperament are not so apt to show it when engaged as counsel on one side or the other in a case. That is hardly to be expected. My hon. friend would undoubtedly show a very fine judicial temperament if he were on the Bench, but still, when engaged on a case at the Bar, that quality would not be so manifest as it might be afterwards when he had ascended the Bench.

Mr. CARVELL: I would remind my right hon. friend that there are limits to the lapses to which a counsel may descend.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not know anything of the incidents to which my hon. friend alludes. We consulted the food controller and it was thought desirable that there should be a chairman of the commission, either a judge or some one having judicial experience. It was learned upon inquiry of Mr. Henderson that he would undertake the work and do so in a purely