

with the highest honour and the very best principles that would guide and direct any gentleman. He always had the interests of Canada foremost in his mind. I have no doubt he was anxious and desirous to support, as far as he could, any policy in the way of immigration that was proposed; but I do not think it would be fair to say that because Lord Strathcona may have tacitly allowed it to proceed in the office that it could be charged that he was a party to it.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I dare say if my hon. friend looks at the revised copy of the debates of this House, he will be borne out in his statements that he did not refer to Lord Strathcona except in that way.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I read a letter or telegram sent in 1899; the letter speaks for itself.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—My hon friend referred frequently through his address to Lord Strathcona, and I notice that in the revised issue of the Debates this reference is converted into a reference to some officers in London. However it is not so much my hon. friend that I have to deal with as the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I read a telegram published in the Montreal 'Star,' from 'Windermere,' in which he appeared to be authorized by Lord Strathcona to say precisely what I have now read to the House, which he has communicated direct to the government, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce repudiated that statement by saying that it was absolutely worthless, although it appears that at the very time when he made that repudiation the government were in possession of full and ample documents completely substantiating what 'Windermere' had cabled.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—In justice to the Minister of Trade and Commerce I think my hon. friend's statement is rather too strong.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Not at all.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It was a letter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. All the letters to Sir Wilfrid Laurier do not come to council. I did not know of it until a short time before it was sent to committee. Necessarily the correspondence between the Premier and persons outside are not state documents that fairly and properly come before council on all occasions.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Can my hon. friend say in that connection what will be the attitude of the government in reference to retaining Preston in their employ now that his statement, made under oath, has been most distinctly contradicted by Lord Strathcona, and particularly in view of the fact that so many representations have been made to the government from important sources, labour unions and other equally important sources, demanding the dismissal of Preston? I can scarcely appreciate how the government can retain Mr. Preston any longer in view of those facts.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am quite unable to foreshadow the policy of the government, and I do not usually do so until the government has come to some decision. I do not in advance suggest what will be done.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Can the hon. gentleman say if it is under consideration?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, I cannot say that.

THIRD READINGS.

Bill (105) An Act to incorporate the Sterling Life Assurance Company.—(Hon. Mr. Lougheed.)

Bill (114) An Act to incorporate the Anglo-Canadian Insurance Company, as amended.—(Hon. Mr. Casgrain, de Lanaudière.)

COURT OF APPEAL FOR MANITOBA BILL.

THIRD READING.

The order of the day being called:

Third reading Bill (195) An Act respecting the Court of Appeal for Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—When this Bill was up for consideration in Committee of the Whole, I was asked to give some information in reference to the passage of the Bill by the Manitoba legislature creating a Court of Appeal. After some difficulty I found a copy of the Act in the Department of Justice, and I extracted from it a short memorandum which perhaps will explain the circumstances sufficiently. The Court of Appeal for Manitoba was created by a statute passed in March last, but will only come into force on proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It is to consist of the chief justice and three other judges, and each of the said