

am not speaking for them, but I think the minister might have had the fairness to admit when he was speaking on the matter that this statement was signed by the companies putting it out.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Does it contain the name of any responsible officer of any of the companies, the president or secretary?

Mr. MANION: I do not think any company would require to have their secretary's name there in addition to the names of the companies. I can read the names of the companies who are responsible for this statement. They are as follows:

Anchor-Donaldson Line, Ltd., Cunard Line.—The Robert Reford Co. Ltd.  
 Donaldson Line, Ltd.—The Robert Reford Co. Ltd.  
 Cairn Line of Steamships (Thomson Line).—The Robert Reford Co. Ltd.  
 White Star-Dominion Line.—  
 Canadian Pacific Steamships, Limited.—  
 Furness Line.—Furness, Withy & Co. Ltd.  
 Manchester Liners.—Furness, Withy & Co. Ltd.  
 Head Line.—McLean, Kennedy, Limited.  
 Scandinavian-American Line.—McLean, Kennedy, Limited.  
 Inter-Continental Transports, Limited.—Canada Steamship Lines, Ltd.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Who signed for the Robert Reford Company?

Mr. MANION: It is signed "The Robert Reford Co., Ltd."

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Who signed for that company?

Mr. MANION: It is signed by the company itself. Does the Prime Minister mean to suggest that these companies who have put their names to this statement would deny that they are the authors of it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend would not take as a contract the signature of a firm without the name of some officer of that firm.

Mr. MANION: Nor would you take as a contract a resolution in printed form before the House. As a matter of fact, the very weakness of the hon. gentleman's argument is this: The Minister of Agriculture, when he was making these charges about statements and letters being unsigned, spoke of the Preston report. I glanced at it while he was speaking, and on page after page I find that Mr. Preston quotes statements by correspondents who say this, that and the other thing, and he does not even mention who they are.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Does he not sign the report?

Mr. MANION: Yes, but he bases his report on the statements of no one that we know. For example, he has a memorandum on the export of sole leather, and simply introduces it with the statement that "the largest sole leather tanners in the British Empire explain" such and such a thing; but he does not say who that is, and there is no signature.

Mr. HAMMELL: I will tell the hon. member who that is if he wants to know.

Mr. MANION: That is not the point. My hon. friend may tell me all kinds of things. He will have a chance to speak later on. I am simply quoting Mr. Preston's report to show that he does not quote any authority by name for his statements.

Mr. HAMMELL: Everyone in Ontario knows who that is.

Mr. MANION: Everyone in Ontario does not know, because I am in Ontario myself and I do not know.

Mr. HAMMELL: You do not know anything about the leather business.

Mr. MANION: I hope my hon. friend has more knowledge about that business than he shows in discussing many other subjects. Mr. Preston goes on and gives a quotation from "Another factory seriously affected." All he gives in that case is "A prominent manufacturer of agricultural implements"; but he does not say who that is. On the following page I find this: "From other sources the following complaints are made"; but there again no name is given, and there is no signature or anything to show where he got the information from. Again, "A very large manufacturing company in Toronto" writes and tells him something; but he does not say who it is. Again "The chairman of an Ontario city chamber of commerce" writes; but he does not say what city or what chamber of commerce that is. There is page after page of that sort of thing. So the Minister of Agriculture, in accusing some of our party of using statements which were unsigned, overlooked the fact that he was supporting a contract that was based upon a lot of statements that were not signed by the companies that gave them to Mr. Preston. I do not wish to waste any more time on the minister's speech because throughout the whole of his remarks I do not think he put up an argument either for or against the contract; he simply wasted the time of the House for about an hour and a half.

I wish to mention just one other thing, as other speakers have done, before I go on. The Prime Minister said here to-night, in reply