

of the council. My late colleague, Mr. Rogers, was the minister at the time. At the moment I cannot say what passed by way of communications between Mr. Rogers and Colonel Harrington, but I know that Colonel Harrington was made fully aware of the reason that no communications were passing between the government and himself, which would give countenance to anything which might appear like assent on my part to his continuing on before the court itself had taken action. I think that is probably all I have to say on the matter.

I hope my hon. friend's good opinion of my politeness will not have suffered as a result of the explanation, which I am making quite frankly to him. All I have to say is that when any gentleman who has no right to be in office holds on to that office waiting for correspondence from me which may appear to justify his action, he may have to wait a long time.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): One word. My right hon. friend has been very polite to me, and I have tried to be very polite to him. I hope so far as I am concerned that that relation will continue, because I must say I do not intend to live in the midst of a dog fight the rest of my life. I may have been so constituted at one time, but if so I have learned better. That is all I am going to say about that.

However, I do not think the other argument of the Prime Minister is conducive to the best conduct of public business, and so far as I am concerned I am not going to descend to it, unless I lose control of my better judgment.

I do not think the Prime Minister had any right to characterize this letter as a bluff. Nobody knows better than the Prime Minister about the use of bluffing, in political tactics. I believe he has attained his present high level in the course of the last twenty years more by bluffing than by anything else I know of.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If it is out of order, I will withdraw it; but I am using the Prime Minister's own term.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not believe that that language should be used.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Just hold yourself.

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Just hold yourself a moment.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

The CHAIRMAN: I am concerned exclusively with the application of the rules of the house.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If I have violated the rules of the house, then I am sorry.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): There is no internal evidence of bluffing in those letters; there is no internal evidence of anything of the sort. Those letters are a true statement of the facts—and I do not believe they were dictated by guile, or anything of the kind. They were dictated by a sense of futility—by the belief that people were not getting anywhere. The object which the person in question had at heart was not being furthered by the delay; in fact it was being retarded.

It seems to me the proper course for the Prime Minister to have pursued was to ask Mr. Harrington to see him, to talk the whole matter over with him as to what was happening, and what was going to happen, and to suggest to him that it would be better if he would resign. If the Prime Minister had done that he would have had that resignation on the same day, because I want to say right here that Colonel Harrington is a proud man. He is poor, but he is proud. He would not have stayed for one minute, under the circumstances.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that I agree with him that that is exactly what Colonel Harrington, to my mind, was angling for at the time. He wished me to send for him to tell him I wanted his resignation.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): But you did not.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, I did not. I did not do that, and Colonel Harrington sent in his own resignation without my asking for it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): But you wanted him to resign.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It took him three months to do something which he ought to have done at once. Anyway I was not going to be left in the false position to which I have referred. I have had a good deal of experience of sending for gentlemen and talking pleasantly with them, and then later having differences arise as to what the conversation was, or what it amounted to.

I am quite content to leave the communications to speak for themselves. The people of Canada had spoken. They had spoken in the general election of 1935, and had made it perfectly clear to the government taking office