

fact to warrant such a statement from the hon. gentleman or from any one else. I say, on the contrary the records and correspondence show that Lord Strathcona was a party to the transactions, to the negotiations; he knew of every step from beginning to end, he confirmed every movement, every report and every step taken by Mr. Preston who acted under him, and I say it is unfair to make the statement in this House that this contract was negotiated by the deputy Minister of the Interior and Mr. Preston in secrecy and unknown to Lord Strathcona, the High Commissioner in London.

Mr. MONK. Is my hon. friend aware that Mr. Smart himself says that he alone concluded all these arrangements with Mr. Preston?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. I should like to see the evidence—

Mr. MONK. It is before the House.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN—in which Mr. Smart stated that. My hon. friend cannot be giving the full evidence, he surely cannot be submitting the context. Mr. Smart gave no such evidence before the Committee on Public Accounts and the records would never bear out such a statement.

Mr. MONK. I am referring to statements before the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization and Mr. Preston's own letter from Berlin to the department wherein he says he has concluded the arrangement.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. That is quite true, if my hon. friend would only be fair, if he would cease concealing facts—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN—he would see that in that very record—

Mr. FOSTER. Order, order.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN—in the very letter to which he refers.

Mr. FOSTER. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman has no right to impute falsehood to any member of this House.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon, I did not accuse anybody of falsehood.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order. The hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. A. K. Maclean) explained his position, I think to the satisfaction of the House, of having no intention of imputing falsehood to an honourable member.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. My position was quite plain. I do not think it was open to question, I was simply remarking that in all fairness the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) should have given the full contents of that letter.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN.

Mr. MONK. It would be my right, since Mr. Smart's evidence, to which I have referred, is before the House, to ask that it be read. I do not insist upon it, because Mr. Smart says clearly, from beginning to end, that he carried out this arrangement personally with Mr. Preston.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. I say Mr. Speaker, even if my hon. friend would produce the evidence given by Mr. Smart before that committee and it was actually there as he says it to be, I would say that Mr. Smart must have been mistaken.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. My hon. friends will please allow me to make my statement. There must have been some misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Smart as to the question put to him, because the records show conclusively and the evidence given by Mr. Smart before the Committee on Public Accounts, shows, that he was not the sole party in the negotiations which finally resulted in this contract.

It is quite true that Mr. Preston was quite prominent in the making of this contract. He had the confidence of Lord Strathcona, because Lord Strathcona, in one of his reports as High Commissioner, the report for 1901, I think, to the Minister of the Interior states that he was pleased that Mr. Preston had been appointed inspector of immigration agencies and that Mr. Preston exhibited a great deal of zeal and industry and that he hoped for a great improvement in Canadian immigration from the continent, by reason of the fact that this service was placed under the charge of Mr. Preston.

I wish now to read an extract from a letter from Mr. Preston to Lord Strathcona, dated May 29, 1899. This letter practically contains only suggestions to Lord Strathcona, but a portion of the letter indicates that Mr. Preston was charged by the High Commissioner to make certain investigations upon the question of continental immigration. Mr. Preston states:

I would therefore respectfully submit that efforts should be made in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland and Denmark, to secure the operation of something of the character of a colonization society, a company or individual shipping agents with extended connections having practical control of the details of immigration in their respective districts, if the policy I now propose to submit should meet with your approval and be adopted by the Department of the Interior.

It is to be remembered also, that the success attending the efforts to secure immigration from the continent to Canada were not at that time satisfactory, either to this country or to Lord Strathcona, the High Commissioner. Mr. Preston states:

I quite appreciate the importance of such a change in the government's policy in connec-