

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Committee; I think the reason has been pretty well outlined as to why I am here this morning. I may say I have not a written statement. As you will see from the telegram I received on Friday my notice to leave was somewhat short, and while I was advised by a gentleman that perhaps I might wait until I got my transportation sent to me, nevertheless, I felt that the Committee desired to hear me this morning and I was quite prepared to come along. Therefore, I must ask your indulgence because I will not have a written statement. The statement I will make will be verbal, from a few notes.

I would like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that the newspaper article which was read to you is substantially correct; it does substantially state what I said. It perhaps is written up in journalistic fashion under a startling heading, and that heading makes the statement that I made charges. If you will notice in the course of that newspaper article, no charges were made—

Mr. SPENCE: They certainly were made.

The WITNESS: —but I did say that I had the information which I was using from the highest authority on immigration in the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. CAHAN: You said you knew the names of the members.

Hon. Dr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Who was the highest authority?

The WITNESS: If you do not mind, I would like to make my statement. I think I will bring that point out.

I may say in this connection also that the meeting which I was addressing was one that was called by the Sons of England, who, in common with other organizations in the city of Regina and in the western part of this country at least, were very critical of the "letting down of the bars" as we term them, in connection with our immigration policy. I myself, as you will see from the article, was critical of that. The newspaper report is, of course, a partial report of what I said. In the same address I pleaded for the bringing into the country of a large number of boys who are leaving schools in Great Britain and who cannot be absorbed into the industries of that country, believing that in that way we would be able to build up our country. I did, however, as you will see from the report, state that in my opinion the reason for letting down these bars to some extent was on account of the difficulty the present Minister of Immigration had in controlling the matter of the issuance of permits. I also gave it as my opinion that the Minister of Immigration should be given some credit for having done that. I want to make that perfectly clear right at the outset.

Now, last week I noticed an article in the *Regina Post* dated at Ottawa, May 10th, and I noticed that this matter had been before this Committee, that Mr. Forke had stated he had a conversation with Alderman Coldwell in which he had mentioned to the Alderman current gossip and suspicions in respect to the use of these permits; "current gossip" being in quotation marks.

May I say a word or two with regard to that, because it has a direct bearing on the newspaper article. I was prepared to accept the word of a Minister of the Crown as to the conditions which had existed. I came to Ottawa on March 15 of last year, and I saw Mr. Forke. I may say that on that day I had luncheon in the restaurant of the House of Commons, and I saw Mr. Forke in the dining room and went across and spoke to him, because there was a matter which I did wish to discuss with him. I will tell you what that matter was, because it brought up the whole conversation. Early in January, 1927, a man whom I knew in the city of Regina came to me and told me that he was making a little visit to Ottawa; that he knew some of the Ministers at Ottawa, but did not know Mr. Forke, but having followed his career he would like to meet him. He asked me if I would give him a line of introduction to

[Mr. M. J. Coldwell.]