

you would realize as an endeavour to convince those whom you describe as advising the Nishgas that this Government has no power or authority to refer a question directly to His Majesty's Privy Council; that the only constitutional method of obtaining the judicial view of His Majesty in Council, relating to a question limited to the internal affairs of Canada is by appeal from the local tribunals.

That bears out what has been said.

Mr. McPHERSON: You have to begin in the local courts and then if the decision is against you, appeal from it. You might skip one or two of the local courts of appeal, and get permission to go directly to the Privy Council.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: That was clearly impressed upon Mr. O'Meara.

Mr. O'MEARA: May I suggest that judgment be reserved in the matter.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: A few lines further down, that letter continues:—

If therefore it be possible for me to make any statement here which can, consistently with the amenities of official correspondence, impress you with the futility of urging upon this Government a reference direct to the judicial committee, I beg of you to consider that statement incorporated in this letter.

WITNESS: Here are the words that we referred to. This is a quotation from the opinion of the Minister of Justice issued in month of December, 1913, from which the following words are taken.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. What are you reading from?—A. Relating to the McKenna-McBride agreement, already quoted. I am reading from notes which were prepared for the Hon. H. H. Stevens, Acting Minister of the Interior, on the 6th of January, 1926.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Is that a document which has been placed before the Committee?—A. No, it has not yet been placed before the Committee. I refer to page 3, and the date is the 6th of July.

Q. If you are going to read from that document, it should be placed on record?—A. We will place it on record.

Mr. O'MEARA: It is a very desirable thing to have on record.

*By Hon. Mr. McLennan:*

Read it in the meantime?—A. The whole document?

Q. No, just the part you wish to quote?—A. This refers to the McKenna-McBride agreement. (Reads Extract).

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: That is an extract sent to a Minister, from an opinion of the Minister of Justice. Now, where is that opinion? It is hardly fair to put in evidence an extract from a statement alleged to have been made by the Minister of Justice, read from a document prepared by Mr. O'Meara. There is not even a reference to what it is from.

WITNESS: I beg to say it is a direct quotation. It is not simply referring to what was offered, but it is a direct quotation.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I say that it is an extract, but I say that it is hardly fair to take an extract in that way.

Mr. O'MEARA: The opinion is available.

*By Hon. Mr. Murphy:*

Q. Is that an extract from a letter written by the then Minister of Justice?—A. By Mr. Doherty, yes.