

*Hudson Bay Railway Terminal*

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here is a certified copy of a report of the committee of the privy council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on June 25, 1920. It is P.C. No. 1416, and reads:

The committee of the privy council have had before them a report dated 11th June, 1920, from the Minister of the Interior, submitting that complete investigations were made during 1919, by the reclamation service, on behalf of the Dominion government, to ascertain the feasibility and desirability of reclaiming by drainage the land underlying and adjoining Waterhen lake and Waterhen marsh in townships 44 and 45, range 21, and townships 44, 45a and 45, range 22, west of the second meridian. The report of the investigation indicates that the project is economically feasible and in the public interest, and that 13,920 acres of land now practically worthless can be reclaimed at an estimated cost of \$143,273.91, which will increase the value of the reclaimed land by about \$312,220,000.

Further:

The sum of \$150,000 was provided in the estimates for 1919-20—

That is two years and two months before the hon. member for West Edmonton and myself entered this house:

—to cover the cost of the work and a revote of a similar sum is included in the estimates for the current year.

So my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture is shown to be absolutely incorrect by the record. He must have known he was incorrect because he was quoting from data that he had before him. If he says that he did not know at the time that it was incorrect, why did he not admit that long ago, instead of waiting until this last day of the session and then imposing upon me the necessity of correcting his misstatement? The order in council continues:

All the requirements of the laws and regulations have been fulfilled and a drainage district has been organized by the government of the province of Saskatchewan designated as "drainage district No. 18."

In order to take in the territory to which my hon. friend alluded. The order in council is signed by Rodolphe Boudreau, clerk of the privy council, and at the bottom is this note:

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So my hon. friend was entirely incorrect in his statement. I have often wondered if he knew what he was saying on different occasions, and I find myself still wondering. He went on to say:

[Mr. Motherwell.]

But that is not all. His work was not yet completed. There was a patch in Saskatchewan that was still not weedy enough.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. What is the hon. member reading from?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am reading from Hansard.

Mr. SPEAKER: Of this session?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I forgot. We are going to be very correct on the day of prorogation. I am sorry I am not allowed to read the minister's exact words, but I think I can summarize them. The Minister of Agriculture intimated that anyone could read the monument that had been left by the member for West Edmonton and myself on this Waterhen lake, and he described in a most spectacular way how the weeds had been distributed all over the Carrot river district. He said that he who runs may read the record of our alleged deeds as an epitaph on that monument. Now instead of introducing the names of my former colleague from Edmonton and myself, I am going to insert the names of Right Hon. Arthur Meighen and Dr. Tolmie, because they were the two ministers in office in the government here at Ottawa at that time. So this graphic description by the minister supposed to apply to the minister from Edmonton and myself should, would, and did apply—if they applied to anybody—to the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen and Hon. Doctor Tolmie. The whole thing was bunk. I do not think either of them deserve these strictures. They were responsible however although I do not think Doctor Tolmie had anything to do with it or that I can censure Mr. Meighen for it. The fact is however that one of these gentlemen was Minister of the Interior and brought down the recommendation to council; I have read a copy of the order in council. If the Minister of Agriculture has anything to say on behalf of himself I should be glad to give place to him, with the understanding that when he is through I shall have the floor. Just a minute—will that be the understanding.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member wishes to give way so that any other hon. member may make a remark or ask a question he has the right to resume his speech.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have to have our T's stroked and our I's dotted this morning for the Prime Minister.