

Stewart and his successor." Hon. Mr. Stewart is a member of the Government; he is an eminent member of this House of Commons and we want to know what you had in mind in your reference there to the Hon. Mr. Stewart.

Mr. COLDWELL: I had this in mind, Mr. Chairman: Mr. Forke made the comment to me that when he found the number of permits which had been issued he wrote to his predecessor—

Q. Who was that?—A. Of the Meighen Cabinet—Dr. Manion, I think it was. He did not mention the name to me, but I think that is who it was. I am speaking now from memory—and that that gentleman replied to him referring him to the records of his predecessor, who was the Hon. Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Forke said that when he looked into those records he found that the condition had existed, that in fact—and he used these words or as nearly as possible these words, or words which at least indicated this, that the condition was even worse.

Q. To what condition are you referring? To the condition under which Members of Parliament received \$100 for getting permits?—A. No, sir.

Q. To the condition under which permits were granted?—A. To the condition that permits were being given out to the people over the country who were using them improperly.

Regarding the above reference to myself I wish to make the following comments:—

(1) I wish to state most emphatically that I have never by word or by letter had any communication whatever with Mr. Forke regarding permits. I feel sure that Mr. Forke will agree with this.

(2) I wish to state just as emphatically that in the time during which I was Acting Minister of Immigration I personally issued no permits to anyone and that no permits were illegally or irregularly issued to anyone. In fact no permits of any kind were issued which were not wholly within the law and the regulations.

(3) I was particularly anxious that no irregularities should take place under my administration, and throughout that time I acted in such manner that no irregularities did take place. I gave instructions along these lines to Mr. Egan, my Deputy, and I have no doubt he lived up to them entirely. By inquiry at the Department, I am informed that nine permits were issued during my regime on special request, but these were wholly within the regulations, being issued in the usual course by the Department.

(4) So far as I know, no traffic in permits of any kind whatever was carried on by anyone during the time that I was Acting Minister.

(5) I am casting reflections upon no one, but make this statement only because my name was brought into the discussion. I make it in justice to myself in order that no false impression may go out from this investigation which might reflect upon myself or upon the Department while I was Acting Minister, as during that time no action of any kind was taken which could reflect either upon myself or upon the Department.

By Hon. Mr. Ralston:

Q. During what dates were you the Acting Minister?—A. I do not think I can give the exact dates. It was about a month, I think.

Q. What month?—A. From July, 1926, to about a month after that. I cannot give you the dates; I would have to look them up.

Q. You took over first as Acting Minister after the new regime?—A. Yes.

[Hon. Dr. Manion.]