

It was upon the testimony of this and other witnesses that the commissioner based his decision to dismiss Harbour. In the evidence of another witness named Binette we find the same question put to him, and he is not certain that it was Harbour himself who gave the sign of approval of the speech that was being delivered by the Liberal speaker, Mr. Geoffrion. This is the question put to him by the prosecutor:

Between you and Harbour there were some taller than Mr. Harbour and some of his height.

He answered:

Yes, sir.

To another question:

Q. Was Mr. Harbour wearing a hat or a cap?

He answered:

I did not notice this particularity.

So the evidence of two of the most important witnesses produced by the prosecution certainly is not very specific as to the fact that Mr. Harbour himself was the man who signified his approval of what was said at that time by the Liberal speaker. We have also the testimony of one of the witnesses that he did not know whether it was a Liberal or a Conservative meeting. In his defence Mr. Harbour testified that he had never uttered any signs of approval, neither clapping his hands nor in any other way signifying that he approved what was said by the speaker.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman knows it has not been charged that any fraud was practised. A wholly impartial tribunal heard the witnesses and the accused, if that term may be used. The commissioner reported against him. The hon. gentleman is only delaying the supply bill by proceeding further.

Mr. CASGRAIN: That may be so, but we have the evidence of Harbour himself and his fifteen witnesses, all of whom testified that to the best of their knowledge in the election campaign of 1930 they had never heard of Mr. Harbour mixing up in politics at all. Then we have the evidence of the two witnesses produced by the complainant, one of whom, Mr. Cadieux, is the principal Conservative organizer in the county, and the other Mr. Eustache Varin, is also a strong supporter of the Conservative party; they both testified that during the course of the election campaign of 1930 to their knowledge, Mr. Harbour had never done anything in the interests of the Liberal party. We have also the evidence that at that time a gentleman named Chéné testified that the man who had given

[Mr. Casgrain.]

signs of approval of the speech made by Mr. Geoffrion was none other than himself, Chéné, and not the accused, Mr. Harbour. I desire to draw attention especially to the fact that there must have been a conspiracy on the part of certain persons to oust Harbour from his position. I do not know to what extent it is true that the government, before dismissing Harbour, although the report had been submitted to them, considered the question very seriously, and it was only upon a certain minister taking the responsibility upon himself that they decided to act upon the report. I strongly protest against the way the investigation was conducted, because I think an injustice was done to this man Harbour.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I wish to delay the house for only about two minutes in order to keep the record accurate. When this item was under discussion some evenings ago, close to the time for adjournment, the minister, in replying to some interrogations by myself, stated that the person in Gleichen to whom had been awarded the contract for the supply of coal to the Indian reserve at a price which I showed was \$1.10 more than the price at which the coal could have been secured if tenders had been solicited in the proper way, was a dealer in coal according to the letterheads on file. As my information had been to the contrary I immediately wired to Gleichen in order to ascertain whether or not my statement had been correct. The wire I sent on May 6 read:

Your letter states McConnell not a coal dealer. Minister states McConnell's accounts bear heading dealer in coal, oils, etc. Please wire full statement.

Mr. BENNETT: To whom was that wire sent?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That was sent to a person whom I knew to be a coal dealer and who would be in a position to inform me, Mr. R. S. McQueen of Gleichen. His reply was:

I reaffirm statement McConnell not in coal business irrespective his billhead. He has no scale shed or coal equipment. I have been Gleichen fourteen years and McConnell never received car of coal in that time. Check up with Canadian Pacific Railway for verification. My letter correct in detail.

R. S. McQueen.

Subsequently I received a letter from the same gentleman amplifying his telegram. In order to be sure that I was not relying upon one witness who might have been prejudiced I also wired Mr. Bentley, of Gleichen, a very reliable person and a member of the local