

*By Mr. Cahan:*

Q. Mr. Forke, just one other question. With respect to Mr. McMurray, did you say anything to the previous witness with regard to Mr. McMurray securing money by the use of permits for electioneering purposes? Did Mr. McMurray's past or expected election expenses come into the conversation which you had?—A. I made no statement of that kind. I am absolutely certain that I know nothing about Mr. McMurray's affairs.

*By Mr. Jacobs:*

Q. Was Mr. McMurray's election mentioned at all in that interview?—A. Not according to my recollection.

*By Mr. Cahan:*

Q. Mr. Forke, since you have been Minister of your Department, has it come to your knowledge that permits were being sold or used for the purpose of securing compensation to those who assisted the applicants in making applications?—A. I have no knowledge whatever of any one getting a dollar for permits; no positive knowledge. I have, like the rest of you, read paragraphs in the newspapers which made that statement, but I have no proof whatever. In fact the longer I am in the Department and the more stories I read in the newspapers, the less confidence do I place in the rumours that I read, because I know so many of them that I see are false, and not true.

Q. One other question, Mr. Forke. Since you have been administering your Department, have charges been preferred to you to the effect that any employees or officials of your Department were implicated in the improper issue of permits?—A. No, Mr. Cahan, I have never had a breath of suspicion against any of my officials. I am happy to answer any question that I possibly can.

*By Mr. Jacobs:*

Q. No official in your Department can issue a permit, can he?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. I thought they had to be issued by the Deputy Minister.—A. Well, I referred to the Deputy Minister when you said, "any official."

Q. Outside the Deputy Minister?—A. No.

*By Mr. Lucas:*

Q. No person outside of the Deputy Minister can issue a permit?—A. I suppose the Assistant Deputy may sign them when the Deputy is not there.

Q. And the Divisional Secretary?—A. I am not aware of them issuing any permits. I do not think they can. It is only the Minister and his Deputies who have the power to issue permits.

*By Mr. Carmichael:*

Q. Mr. Forke, Mr. Coldwell has stated that in his conversation with you, a defeated candidate in the Maritime Provinces was mentioned. Do you recall any such references?—A. No, I do not recall that incident at all. I do not know anyone from the Maritime Provinces or any other place whom I can remember. I can remember members of Parliament and defeated members who have asked me for a permit, or two or three permits for their constituents, but I have no recollection of any statement of that kind.

*By Mr. McGibbon:*

Q. Can your Deputy issue permits without your knowledge, or do you have to O.K. and pass the applications?—A. No, I have not O.K'd them. I have made regulations and rules that he has to follow in the issuing of these permits. I may say I do not think I have ever signed a permit since I went into the Department. They are all done by the Deputy Minister under my instructions and regulations.

[Hon. Mr. Forke.]