

have taken place between the British government and the Canadian government, because I am unable to gather from what source information of that kind could have come.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not what I said.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What did my right hon. friend say?

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman has a habit of making statements of that character. I did not say that. I said I had information that they had endeavoured to establish training schools in this country. I was sensible enough to know that they did not make any formal request to the government, but would rather ascertain through informal discussions what the attitude of the government was.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Perhaps my right hon. friend will tell the committee where he got his information so we may judge how authentic is its source.

Mr. BENNETT: I have no intention of saying that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I thought not. I want to have it understood that neither the right hon. leader of the opposition in this house nor the leader of the opposition in the senate is prepared to state the source of his information. On the other hand, they both have been prepared to have a controversy take place in the press which has misrepresented entirely the position of the present government and which I think has helped to create embarrassment in the old country as well as here.

Mr. BENNETT: The Vancouver Sun started it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is an old Tory trick.

Mr. BENNETT: The Vancouver Sun is a Tory paper, is it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It has been started at different times and in different ways. However, I think we shall clear up the matter once and for all this morning. The letter my colleague, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Mackenzie), has asked me to read is a communication which was received from the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, Sir Francis Floud, and which reads:

Office of the High Commissioner
for the United Kingdom
Ottawa

June 21, 1938.

Sir,

With reference to your note No. 6 of the 16th April, I have the honour to inform you that I have been instructed by the Secretary

[Mr. I. Mackenzie.]

of State for Dominion Affairs to convey to His Majesty's government in Canada an expression of the warm appreciation of His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom for the valuable assistance rendered by the Minister of National Defence and his department to the air mission from the United Kingdom which recently visited Canada.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
F. L. C. Floud.

The Rt. Hon.
The Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

Mr. BENNETT: Read the letter of April 16, to which that is a reply.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have not that letter here. The letter of April 16 I think, intimated that a mission would be coming to Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: That will be a letter from the government of Canada to Sir Francis Floud.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It had I imagine reference to the mission.

Mr. BENNETT: The Prime Minister should not read a reply to a letter, without reading the letter to which it is in reply.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I will send for the letter. I think my right hon. friend knows what it would likely be.

Mr. BENNETT: I know nothing of that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is nothing in the other communication which would affect or alter in any way the significance of the present communication.

Mr. BENNETT: The terms of that letter would determine the reply.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: With respect to what has been asked this morning by the right hon. leader of the opposition in this committee, and with respect to the questions asked by the leader of the Conservative opposition in the senate, I would say that the government has nothing to add to the statement made by the leader of the government in the senate in response to an inquiry by the leader of the opposition in that house, the statement then made was to the effect that no requests have been received from the British government for the establishment in Canada of training centres for aviators of the air force of the United Kingdom. Confidential and informal exploratory conversations with respect to training of British air pilots have taken place, but nothing has developed which it was felt warranted a statement of policy. As has been indicated, if any proposals are