

found that the genius of government has not altogether departed from the country. And it will also be revealed to ultra-loyal pessimists of the character of your correspondent that the British interests have not been imperilled, and that this incident has not dissolved a valuable link between the two countries. All Canadians ask is that Mr. Bron. Herbert, and those like him, will be fair to the statesmen of the Dominion, and not allow the ex parte statements of political opponents or allegations founded upon imperfect knowledge of the circumstances to prejudice their interest.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd) W. T. R. PRESTON.

11 and 12 Charing Cross, S.W., June 17.

I take it that there can be no doubt at all that the writer of this communication is the Canadian emigration agent at London. I would like to ascertain if the government think that this gentleman is in the line of his duty in sending communications of this kind to the public press? Has any remonstrance been sent to Mr. Preston regarding this communication? I would also like to know, Mr. Speaker, if Canada has a high commissioner in London, whether it would not be more in accord with the fitness of things—if any injustice has been done to any interest in Canada by the publication of imperfect reports in the English newspapers—that it should devolve on the High Commissioner, rather than on the Canadian emigration agent, to set the English public right. I recognize Mr. Preston's right to entertain opinions on all these subjects; but in view of all circumstances I challenge his right as a servant of the people of Canada to rush into print with a statement of this kind. Mr. Preston was probably not more fully informed when he wrote this communication than was the gentleman whose communication he took exception to. We should have some declaration from the government as to the policy it intends to pursue respecting matters of this kind. Is it within the line of Mr. Preston's duty to write such communications and have them published? Do the government approve of his action? If they do not approve of it, have they disapproved of it; and what means have they taken to express their disapproval? Has any communication passed between the government and Lord Strathcona about this matter? These are questions which the government may fairly be required to answer. We ought to know what their policy is. If an official in the employment of the government writes anything to the public press derogatory to the policy of the government, his official head is immediately taken off. Are we to understand that officials, paid servants of the people, have immunity from official frowns if they fawn upon the government, their masters or paymasters for the time being? Are they at liberty to address communications to the press here or in the old land eulogizing the action of the government, and are other officials debarred from expressing opinions

contrary to those entertained by the government? I do not desire to take up the time of the House, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to have an expression of opinion from the government as to what they think of Mr. Preston's communication and what they intend to do about it?

Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON (Minister of the Interior). I was not aware until yesterday that the official in question had written a letter to the London 'Times,' and I only became aware of it then through a reference which I noticed in one of the Ottawa papers. I gave instructions to one of my officials to look up the authentic report of the letter and to bring it to me yesterday, but I did not have time to examine it, and have not had time to examine it yet. Therefore, neither myself nor any member of the government has any definite knowledge of the contents of the letter, except such as we received this morning through hearing the hon. gentleman read it. All I can say is: that subject is one that we will have to give our consideration to, and at the present time I am not prepared to express any opinion about it or to say anything further. So soon as the government has been able to give the subject consideration we will be able to announce the conclusion at which we have arrived.

Mr. CLARKE. Under the circumstances, I presume I will be at liberty to bring this matter again before the attention of the government within the next two or three days?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (Victoria). I presume that this matter is in the Department of the Minister of the Interior, and in order that it may be still further considered by him and by the government, I may state that it is a well known fact that not only Mr. Preston but others of the officers of this government in the old country are in the habit of writing articles to the English press condemning the policy of the opposition here, and footing and palavering the policy and the members of the administration. This country voted the sum of \$15,000 last year to help what was termed the Canadian Associated Press Bureau, or some such institution. Then these same gentlemen had these manufactured toots of their own chiefs for the time being telegraphed all over the world as the expressions of the British public, quoting from some remote north of England, or Scotch or Welsh journal the opinion of the editor upon the magnificence and grandeur of some of these gentlemen. I shall give you a sample of it.

Mr. SIFTON. Will my hon. friend permit me? Is he referring to anything written by an official of the government, or is he referring to the reports prepared by the agents of the Associated Press?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I am referring first to the editorials or comments published in