

that as a large one. He does not regard this retainer as a large one, but he does not tell us what the amount of it is. We have this state of affairs—the president of the North American Trading and Transportation Company, and the captain of this vessel, came over to have the vessel entered and transferred to the British flag. We have Mr. F. C. Wade, the Crown prosecutor and the holder of some half dozen other offices under the government, acting as solicitor—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is not true.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Wait until I get through.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Tell the truth.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax.) There is an old expression in use among the boys which I do not want to use, but which I shall have to use if my hon. friend the Minister of Customs does not keep quiet.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Keep within the record.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am keeping within the record.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax.) What was I about to say, does the hon. minister suppose?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You said he was acting as solicitor, and we say that is not correct.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) is excited, and so is the Minister of Customs. They did not wait until I had finished my sentence.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman had finished that sentence.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I had not.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes you had.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I beg my hon. friend's pardon. I said we have this Mr. F. C. Wade acting at that time as the solicitor upon the yearly retainer, which he says is not small, of the North American Trading and Transportation Company. That is what I said or was about to say, if my hon. friends had not been so nervous. What do we have then? We have Mr. Weare, president, I believe, of this company, which is retaining Mr. F. C. Wade at a yearly salary which is not small, coming over to transfer this vessel to the British flag and enter her in the customs. And what have we further? We have Mr. Weare acting

as the agent of Steinhoff, being a director of the company, to whom this vessel purports to be transferred. Now, is there any evidence of that? Let us see whether there is any evidence of that.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is all right. That is in the papers which we have been reading half an hour ago, when you were not in.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The minister thinks that is all right. Very well, he can enjoy his opinion with regard to that:

I, Ely E. Weare, do solemnly and truly swear that I am the duly authorized agent and attorney of John Steinhoff.

Now, this vessel formerly belonged to the North American Transportation Company, for whom Mr. F. C. Wade was the paid solicitor at that time, paid by the year, and Mr. Ely E. Weare acts for the president of that company, attends to the transfer of this vessel to the British flag, attends to the entry in the customs, and swears that he is doing so as the duly authorized agent and attorney of John Steinhoff, who is a director of that company. The bill of sale which transferred that vessel from Mr. Weare to Mr. Steinhoff transferred it to Mr. Steinhoff as director of that company, else the statement made by Mr. Belcourt's firm, which has not been denied in the correspondence, is absolutely false. That is repeated over and over again in his letter to the board of trade which came to the minister's attention, and which he does not seem to have taken the trouble to read. I venture to think he would not have made the statement he made here to-night if he had realized the fact I am now stating to the House, namely, that this vessel was transferred by a director of the company which owned her to another director of the company which owned her, a transfer to him, not in his personal right, but as a director of that company.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not construe that sentence to mean that at all.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I say that is the statement of Mr. Belcourt in two distinct letters, one to the board of trade, which came to the minister's attention, and which, I think, he could not have read, and in another letter to the Department of Customs, it is stated twice.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman reads that sentence one way and I read it another. The sentence reads:

The boat formerly belonged to the North American Transportation Company, and by bill of sale bearing date June 3, 1899, one Ely E. Weare, a director of that company, transferred to Steinhoff, 'qua' director.

He would not transfer it to Steinhoff qua director, but qua director transferred it.