

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, May 16, 1928.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. W. F. Kay, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, when we adjourned yesterday until this morning I was not aware that a Conservative caucus had been called for the same time. I was informed of that yesterday afternoon by the Chief Whip of the Conservative party with the request that the Committee should not meet at the same time. Of course, it is always usual for committees not to meet when there is a caucus of one of the parties. That is not a rule, but it is common practice and I am inclined to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. CAHAN: Before you suggest any adjournment I think there is one matter which should be disposed of. The evidence brought out yesterday clearly necessitates the presence of Mr. McMurray before the Committee, and I would move that Mr. McMurray be called. He has been placed, so far as the evidence now stands, in rather an invidious position and he should have the opportunity to explain his position in the matter.

Discussion followed.

Motion agreed to.

The Committee adjourned until 4 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Committee resumed at 4 p.m., the Chairman, Mr. W. F. Kay, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): I move that Doctor Manion be heard.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: There is a witness on the stand.

Hon. Mr. MANION: I quite agree with you Mr. Ralston, but I have a short statement to make in regard to my name being mentioned yesterday. It will only take five minutes to put the evidence straight. I would like to have the privilege of making about a five minute statement before the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the wish of the Committee to hear Doctor Manion?

Carried.

Hon. Mr. MANION: I have written out this statement so that there will be no possible misconception. (Reads):

It was drawn to my attention last evening that a witness, Mr. Coldwell, had yesterday before this Committee mentioned my name in such a way that by inference a misunderstanding might easily arise and the conclusion be drawn that during my regime as Acting Minister of Immigration permits for entrance to this country were irregularly issued in large numbers. Let me quote the reference to myself by the witness:—

By Mr. Cahan:

Q. Now, I have had some experience in examining witnesses and I would like to know what you knew directly or indirectly when you said: "I know what the records of the Department were under both Hon. Mr.

[Hon. Dr. Manion.]