

give agent's commission to any man buying four cars or over, and that the commission was twenty per cent. The catalogue price on that machine is \$850 and it would appear that the Minister of Militia not only paid the catalogue price but something over one hundred dollars per machine above the catalogue price. That is not very good generalship in a business transaction.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The hon. gentleman (Mr. McCrea) is stating what is absolutely contrary to the fact. The letter which the hon. gentleman read here shows that the machines were sold for less than the catalogue price.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Not at all.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Excuse me. The machine was sold less than the catalogue price when you consider the extras.

Mr. McCREA. I had the agency of the Ford Motor car and I know that was their system of doing business two years ago and I don't believe they have changed it since. Any person buying four cars or over got the agent's commission which is twenty per cent, and on the catalogue the price of that car this year is \$850.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). That is right.

Mr. McCREA. And you paid something over \$951.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). We got extras.

Mr. McCREA. I am not making any accusation, but I repeat that while the hon. gentleman may be a good military man, he is a bad purchasing agent.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish). I happen to know something about how the Ford company sell these cars. I know of a case where four or five persons wished to get a car at wholesale prices, and they communicated with the Ford Motor company, but they could not get the discount. They got over that by one of their number taking the agency for that town, and he entered into a contract that he would sell at least four motor cars and he got the benefit of the discount and the price to the purchasers was correspondingly less. The fact is, that the Ford company would not sell, except through their agent, and all this talk we have been hearing in years gone by, about middlemen's profits and buying from middlemen, is much on a par with this case; there is really nothing in the matter at all, if the facts are inquired into.

Mr. KNOWLES. I have a question to ask of the Minister of Militia, and of the leader of the government. On the 28th of

Mr. McCREA.

February, I read in this House, a letter written by the Minister of Militia and sent to the city clerk of Moosejaw. That letter accused the gentlemen who compose the city council of Moosejaw of being blundering folk and other things. I want to ask if there has been any letter addressed to the Prime Minister by the city council or any other body in Moosejaw, complaining of that letter and asking that there be an apology.

Mr. BORDEN. There was a letter written to me, with regard to the incident. I cannot recall the precise terms of it. I answered the letter at the time.

Mr. KNOWLES. Does the right hon. gentleman remember whether an apology was asked for, from the Minister of Militia?

Mr. BORDEN. I have no recollection of that.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Now that the subject is brought up, I might suggest to my hon. friend that he might suggest to the city council of Moosejaw, that an apology is due to the Minister of Militia. I have had very courteous and gentlemanly correspondence from the Board of Trade of Moosejaw, who are evidently gentlemen.

Mr. KNOWLES. I cannot allow that to go without a word. The city council of Moosejaw is just as reputable a body of men as can be found anywhere, and the Minister of Militia should give some reason for making that statement in regard to the city council of the city in which I reside. He has spoken of them in his letter as being a blundering body and has intimated to them as clearly as he could that he does not want to bother with having further conversation with them, and he states here in the House that one reason he does not want to take the matter up with them is that they are Grits—wherever he got that information I do not know. I say that the city council of Moosejaw deserves more courteous treatment from a minister of the Crown. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that the city of Moosejaw gave his party a very substantial majority at the last election, and let me tell him further that if he and the others who are under the Prime Minister will continue writing letters like that, I question if there will be much more appreciation of the Conservative party in that city. I appeal to my right hon. friend and I protest against a minister of the Crown writing such letters to the city council of Moosejaw and making such remarks about them. My hon. friend and myself have extended courteous and friendly treatment to each other for the years we