

Department who made a special investigation in connection with the management of said post office any time between June 1, 1933, and June 1, 1934.

**Mr. McINTOSH:**

For a copy of all correspondence, letters and telegrams exchanged between any person in Spiritwood, the Spiritwood district or elsewhere, and the department of the Postmaster General, regarding the management of the post office at Spiritwood, Saskatchewan, since September, 1930, to April 1, 1934; also a copy of the report of the inspector of the department who made a special investigation in connection with the management of the said post office during the month of February or March or any other month during the year from June 1, 1933, and June 1, 1934.

**Mr. McINTOSH:**

For a copy of all correspondence, letters and telegrams exchanged between any person in Medstead, Medstead district or elsewhere, and the department of the Postmaster General, regarding the management of the post office at Medstead, Saskatchewan, during the past year; also a copy of any report made by an inspector of the department who made a special investigation in connection with the management of said post office any time between June 1, 1933, and June 1, 1934.

**Mr. BENNETT:** In view of the terms of these notices of motion, three in number, standing in the name of the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh), I should like them to stand because they are asking for letters from unnamed persons, and one can easily realize how difficult it will be to prepare such a return when you have not the names of all the persons in the particular district who have communicated with the department. In the closing lines of these notices another question is raised to which I should like to speak when the hon. member is in his place. At present I would ask that the notices of motion stand.

Notices of motions stand.

**PRIVILEGE—MR. WEIR (MELFORT)**

**Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. In this connection I regret that the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) is not in his seat but I feel I cannot delay the matter. It is reported on page 3613 of Hansard of Friday, June 1, 1934, that the hon. member for North Battleford stated as follows:

Last year the minister contended that the Anglo-Saxons were the only people in the north; he suggested that the Mennonites, the French, the Belgians, the Scotch and the Welsh and others were not people, but merely political cattle.

I was listening very closely to the hon. member for North Battleford and I did not hear him use the words "but merely political cattle." I asked some of my colleagues if they had heard these words used and they stated definitely that they had not.

On checking up the typewritten copy of Hansard I found that the words "but merely political cattle" had been written in with a red pencil, and that there had been a period after the word "people." Upon inquiring of the staff of Hansard I was informed that these words were not in the reporter's notes and the reason they were inserted was that the hon. member for North Battleford instructed Mr. Young, associate editor of debates, that he had used these words and insisted that they be inserted.

The hon. member for North Battleford was referring to a statement that I had made in the house, as set out in revised Hansard at page 5280 of May 22, 1933, wherein referring to the Mennonites I stated as follows:

I had the privilege and pleasure of working throughout that whole district for years as a school inspector. I know many of these people personally and they take second place to none.

On the same date in the same debate, with reference to the French, I stated as reported on page 5290 of Hansard:

There is no hon. member in this house or out of it with a higher estimation of the fine qualities of our French-Canadians and of the French in the old land than I have.

On the same page in referring to these people I referred to "French, Ukrainian, Scandinavian and other people who live in harmony, and are doing everything they can to make that one of the best sections in Canada."

In view of my opinion so expressed, therefore, the words allegedly inserted are so insulting that had I heard them used I would have insisted at the time that they be withdrawn. Having checked up unrevised Hansard and having consulted my colleagues present in the house, who state definitely they did not hear the words used, I would ask that the four words "but merely political cattle" be stricken from the record.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In the absence of the hon. member for North Battleford I think the matter had better stand. In any event it is not one in which the Speaker can give a ruling. I suggest that it ought to be referred to the select standing committee on the official report of debates.