

remarks on the subject referred to in this motion. I cannot pretend to have the knowledge myself of the proper procedure in cases of this kind; but I have been informed that it is not the practice to refer matters to the Public Accounts Committee until they appear in the Public Accounts; consequently there would be good grounds why the House might well vote down the present motion. I have, however, from the first, requested that such a step be not taken; but, on the contrary, that every facility be offered those who think they have found any cause of offence in me to prove such offence in the quickest possible way.

I have no desire to anticipate anything which should properly be brought out before the Public Accounts Committee; but it is only just to myself, in view of the careless and reckless attacks made upon me, that I should state very briefly such facts as will make my own position clear. I will not go into the evidence upholding such facts until the proper time comes, but I say to those who have been quite ready and willing to attack without taking the trouble to investigate, that the evidence will come in due course.

First of all, since I have become a member of Parliament, I have not been in any way whatever interested in contracts with the Dominion Government, and have never been and am not now, directly or indirectly, by understanding, secret or otherwise, or in any other way whatever, interested in the dealings which Mr. Powell had with the Militia Department, or with any department.

Having been informed that certain goods manufactured in the United States were required for the Militia Department, and believing as I do now that these goods could only be purchased through a Canadian agency and would only be sold through a Canadian agency, I recommended Mr. Powell as such Canadian agent. My belief as above stated was and is in my opinion absolutely correct. I understood at the time that only a comparatively small purchase from the firm in the United States was to be made. I believed Mr. Powell to be dependable, and still believe him to be so, and I recommended him because, in my judgment, he was dependable and a fit and proper person to so recommend. If such recommendation is a wrong one on my part, then I will ask that all recommendations be similarly inquired into.

I have seen reports and statements to the effect that I misrepresented the profits being made by Mr. Powell on the con-

tract. I deny flatly any such accusation, and I challenge the most rigid inquiry.

It is, I think, to be regretted that parties who so flippantly make such charges have, so far as I can see, no corresponding responsibility, and very little to lose.

It is only my desire to bring this matter to an investigation and conclusion as quickly as possible that leads me now to demand that any one who wishes to make such a charge, make it now in a manly way across the floor of the House and on his responsibility as a member of Parliament.

With the question as to deductions made by the Militia Department against Mr. Powell I have no concern; it is a matter entirely between him and the Militia Department.

I have absolutely nothing to conceal in the matter, and have entire confidence that the House, or any committee of the House, will treat me with absolute fairness, which is a great deal more than a partisan press and certain interested parties on the outside have done.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I think my hon. friend (Mr. A. K. Maclean) has made this motion a little wider than I intended. I think the words, "in relation thereto," should follow where I have indicated in the paper. That might possibly have the effect of not including in the motion this matter of submarines to which the hon. member for St. John alluded. I am perfectly willing to have that matter also referred to the Committee on Public Accounts if the hon. member for St. John desires.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Mr. Speaker, the remarks of the hon. member for Carleton, Ontario, might possibly leave the impression that this was especially directed against him and might leave myself under the imputation of being particularly interested in the affair to which he has referred, but did not desire to request the appointment of a special committee and make a charge in the manner usually followed in such cases. I may say that my motion is merely to have placed before the Public Accounts Committee the correspondence mentioned in the motion.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

ASSISTANCE TO HOMESTEADERS— FEED FOR STOCK.

On the Order of the Day being called:

Mr. W. A. BUCHANAN (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I have had a number of complaints lately that feed for stock is not