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EX - THE TORONTO EVENING TELEGRAM,

Apr. 23, 1924.

PURE POLITICAL TRICK TO UNLOAD BANK BLAME?

Hon. E.M. Macdonald and Hon. J.A. Robb told Commons that Home Bank records were not in Finance Department.

Secretary Found Them.

King's Supporters caught in barefaced attempt to shift responsibility which rightfully belongs to present Liberal Government.

Ottawa, Ont., Apr. 23 - (Staff Special) Ottawa is now fairly well seized with the idea that the main intent of the King Government is to cover up its own neglect of duty ~~in~~ in regard to Home Bank affairs and pile the blame onto the shoulders of Sir Thomas White, former Minister of Finance, than it is to have a thorough investigation and provide ways and means of affording relief to suffering depositors.

Official reports show that either the present Liberal Government was woefully ignorant of records concerning the Home Bank which were to be found on the Government files at Ottawa or that in order to clear the skirts of Rt. Hon. William Stevens Fielding, the present Minister of Finance, two of his colleagues, Hon. Edward Mortimer Macdonald, K.C., Minister of National Defence, and Hon. James Alexander Robb, Minister of Immigration and Colonization, acting Minister of Finance, speaking on the floor of the House of Commons, made statements which they must have known were not in accordance with facts.

In the course of the debate on the motion of William Irvine (East Calgary) calling for the appointment of a special parliamentary committee to investigate the Home Bank failure, the Minister of National Defence, at the moment probably is more concerned about defending the Government of which he is a member, interrupted Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, who at the time was contending that all that took place in connection with the Home Bank was on record.

NO SUCH RECORD ? ? ?

Hansard records that on March 27, Mr. Meighen stated:-

"All that took place took place in writing and all was on the record, open to the inspection of the Government, and open for their review and decision."

Here it was that the Minister of Defence interrupted:

"Does the Right Hon. gentleman mean to say that this Government got the complaint that was made to Sir Thomas White in 1916?" asked Mr. Macdonald. "All I have to say is that there is no such record in the Department."

TOTALLY MISLEADING.

Later on Hon. James Alexander Robb, acting Minister of Finance, interrupted Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen to state:

"We have copies that were discovered in the Home Bank filed of certain letters that were sent out. We have not the copies of the letters that came down to Sir Thomas White."

How totally, if not deliberately misleading, were the statements made by the two colleagues of Rt. Hon. W.S. Fielding

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