

Q. Were you, Mr. Patterson, at a meeting in Hamilton on January 7?—A. January 6.

Q. 1932. Who spoke at that meeting?—A. Hon. Mr. Gordon was the chief speaker.

Q. Were there people there?—A. It was the inaugural meeting of the Hamilton Liberal party, Hamilton Liberal club, a new organization.

Q. I suppose it was largely attended?—A. Approximately eighty people there.

Q. Then, the matter which we are inquiring into, Mr. Patterson, is set out in a resolution of the House of Commons, appearing in Votes and Proceedings of the 4th February, 1932. This was taken from the Globe newspaper, carried into the Votes and Proceedings of February 4, 1932. It reads as follows:

January 7, 1932.—The bald charge that Premier Bennett had financed the honeymoon trip of his sister to Europe out of the Canadian Treasury, and that he had obtained a new private railway car for his own use at a cost to Canada of \$125,000, was made to local Liberals to-night by Hon. G. N. Gordon, K.C., who was Deputy Speaker in the Federal house under the King Government.

You did not write that, I understand?—A. No, sir.

Q. He criticized Premier Bennett for having appointed his brother-in-law as Canada's envoy at Washington, and then charged that the cost of Mrs. Herridge's honeymoon trip to Europe had been paid for by Premier Bennett out of the Canadian Treasury.

Was that said by Mr. Gordon at the meeting?—A. That was said.

*By Mr. Howard:*

Q. Did you say you were present at the meeting?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And there were eighty people present?—A. Yes.

Q. You did not write that article?—A. Not in the Globe.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You reported it?—A. My story appeared in the Spectator.

Mr. DUFF: Is this the Spectator you have quoted from?

The CHAIRMAN: No, I have quoted from the Globe. I am just asking him if those statements were made at the meeting.

Mr. DUFF: His evidence is not of much use to us, then.

The CHAIRMAN: His evidence is just in connection with what was said at the meeting.

*By Mr. Duff:*

Q. I think you wrote it as it appeared in the Globe?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. It says, "The bald charge that Premier Bennett had financed the honeymoon trip of his sister to Europe out of the Canadian Treasury—" You did not hear that statement made by Mr. Gordon, did you?—A. I did.

Q. And that he had bought a new private railway car for his own use?—A. I did.

Q. Now, Mr. Patterson, as reporter for the Hamilton Spectator you have reported other meetings, public meetings in the city of Hamilton at different times?—A. Over a period of twenty years, exclusive of four years of war service, when I was away.

Q. In those public meetings, which you have reported, of course, you cannot remember any specific ones, but in your experience as a newspaper reporter, have you heard other speakers make statements on the public platform, much in the same line as those made by Mr. Gordon?—A. Oh, yes.