

The undersigned has the honour to report that by reason of representations made to him by The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, a Member of His Majesty's Privy Council, he has had under consideration the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into certain allegations made by two persons of prominence in the public life of the Province of Ontario, which allegations affect the personal honour as well as the integrity and the propriety of the public conduct of the said The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen in the performance of a public trust.

The undersigned observes that although such allegations have not been made in that formal manner which, in accordance with the practice universally recognized in the public life of Great Britain and of Canada, involves personal responsibility in those who make them, and that although such allegations do not affect the public conduct of the said The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen in his capacity as a Member of His Majesty's Privy Council or as a Member of the Government of Canada, or in any Dominion, as distinguished from Provincial, capacity (in that they relate exclusively to the manner in which the said The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen is said to have discharged his duties as Commissioner of the Hydro Electric Power Commission of the Province of Ontario, a position which until recently he occupied) those allegations, because they relate to one who has been for many years prominent in the public life of Canada and who is now a Member of the Government of Canada, ought to be of concern to all other Members of such Government and to the public of Canada, for, in effect, they charge that a Member of that Government, acting in a public capacity, although not acting for that Government, subordinated the interest of the public to his personal interest and profited, with intent, by the exercise of his discretion or judgment as such Commissioner and by the use of information obtained as such to the detriment of members of the public. In this connection the undersigned refers to two letters addressed to him by the said The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, dated, respectively, May 1, 1933, and June 26, 1934, copies whereof and of their enclosures are hereto appended.

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