

branches in team play notifying each other when there has been any danger on the horizon with respect to the health of animals. With regard to this work under Dr. Torrance, I have nothing to say. At the present time the work is equally satisfactorily done under Dr. Hilton. I think the fitness or unfitness of Mr. Duncan Marshall and Dr. Grisdale for the work is a matter of judgment. What talks is results, and the result in this case was the removal of the embargo. I do not know how Dr. Torrance or a hundred veterinarians could have done more. And the quarantine regulations were not introduced into the negotiations, Mr. Chairman. Now I will ask my hon. friend for his excuses.

Mr. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, we have the spectacle to-night of a minister of the Crown, who upon unimpeachable evidence is shown to have made a statement reflecting most seriously upon the honour, the integrity and the respectability of a citizen of this country who is held in the highest esteem by all who know him, a minister who, in spite of the fact that evidence is adduced here to-night that absolutely refutes the statement he made the other day, stands in his place and brazenly reasserts his position, with perhaps one modification—he does not reiterate the absolutely inaccurate and unfounded statement that he made the other night. Now, the least the minister could have done, even though he has doggedly persisted in his attitude regarding the letter—which I shall review again as I did the other day—the least he could have done was to have admitted that he was altogether wrongly informed, and to have offered his apologies to Dr. Mohler.

I am going to direct my appeal to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) to-night. This situation has developed in such a manner that I feel confident it will appeal to his good sense and to the good sense of hon. gentlemen opposite, as well as of hon. gentlemen in other parts of the House, that Dr. Torrance should be cleared of all aspersions, and if the Prime Minister and the House will follow me a moment I shall endeavour to deal with some of these points. Let me deal with the last first. I refer to the very serious aspersion cast upon Dr. Torrance, inferentially, through the mouth of Dr. Mohler. On page 2238 of Hansard the hon. Minister of Agriculture is reported to have made certain statements—which he did. I am going to quote only those that are material to the case. He said:

There is no question that all the members of the staff would know about it.

That is, the staff in Washington.

And as a matter of fact, word came back to us that they were astonished at Washington that we should keep in our employ a man who would write such a letter.

The "man" being Dr. Torrance. Now, this is not just an utterance in a moment of passion and made without thought. Let me ask the attention of hon. members to what follows:

Mr. Meighen: Who said that? Will the minister tell us who is responsible for the statement that the officials in Washington had expressed astonishment at the fact that, as he puts it we should have kept such a man in our employ?

Mr. Motherwell: It came through Dr. Mohler.

Mr. Meighen: Very well; but who said it?

Mr. Motherwell: I understand it came from Dr. Mohler.

Mr. Meighen: Did Dr. Mohler, say that he was astonished?

Mr. Motherwell: Yes.

Here we have Dr. Mohler, the head of the corresponding branch in the United States, a man who stands very high in his profession over there, alleged to have written to this department, or to have conveyed to it and to the minister, the fact that he was astonished that Canada would retain in its employ a man of the calibre of Dr. Torrance who made a statement of this character.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Will my hon. friend pardon me. If he will start at the beginning of that conversation with the right hon. leader of the opposition he will find I said that we had heard of it, that word came to us.

Mr. STEVENS: I have read the exact words from Hansard.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I did not make any decided statement. How could I know?

Mr. STEVENS: The minister said:

It came through Dr. Mohler.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: That is the word that came to us.

Mr. STEVENS: Allow me to continue this extract from Hansard.

Mr. Meighen: Very well, but who said it?

He is trying to get exact information.

Mr. Motherwell: I understand it came from Dr. Mohler.

Mr. GAUVREAU: "I understand".

Mr. STEVENS: Now, shall we stop there? I do not intend to. I am going to take another step.

Mr. Meighen: Did Dr. Mohler say that he was astonished?

Now, there is no ambiguity about that question.

Mr. Motherwell: Yes.