

*Mr. Murdock and Home Bank*

was appointed I forwarded to it the representations that were made to the government.

Mr. PORTER: That does not appear in the public records.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It appears in the records of the commission.

Mr. PORTER: What I am stating is that there was an opportunity for the Prime Minister at that time to make a statement in a public way and not by private letter.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It was a public letter.

Mr. PORTER: In giving his evidence he had the opportunity of meeting what I am alleging here. On the occasion in question the discussion proceeded:

Sir Henry Drayton: What I am referring to I think my hon. friend understands.

Mr. Mackenzie King: I do not.

Sir Henry Drayton: I refer to the representations made by the directors who came to Ottawa for the purpose of acquainting the government with the situation, and the statements made by them, the action taken by the government in allowing the bank to go, and the reasons for it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Those are the very matters I referred to the commission, not privately but publicly.

Mr. PORTER: I am not saying there was not a reference made to the commission. What I am stating, and reiterating, is that there was an opportunity for the Prime Minister to make a statement at that time but he did not do it. Therefore I think I am perfectly justified in saying that not only has the Minister of Labour had ample opportunity to disavow these charges, but the Prime Minister has also had the opportunity, if he desired to do so, to state before parliament what took place. The Prime Minister had the second opportunity of making such a statement when he was before the commission.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is my hon. friend referring to now? Is he saying there were representations made to the government in reference to the very charges he is referring at the present time?

Mr. PORTER: Not to the charges but to the facts upon which the charges were based.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There have been no representations made to the government in this matter. The hon. member is at the present moment making the first representation that has been made on this subject.

Mr. PORTER: My right hon. friend does not understand me, apparently.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I certainly do not.

Mr. PORTER: I thought I had made it quite plain. The Prime Minister was asked by the hon. member for West York to state what representations were made by the directors of the Home Bank. My right hon. friend (Mr. Mackenzie King) has never made any statement as to what the representations were.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have made the statement over and over again, that I would transfer to the commission all representations that were made to the government, and I have done so.

Mr. PORTER: I am bound to accept the Prime Minister's statement but the public is not aware of that fact.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, it is.

Mr. PORTER: I cannot find in the evidence any statement of such a character at all. Now, what the Prime Minister said was that any representations made to the government would be placed before the commission, "whatever they are and wherever they are." Ample opportunity has been given for the Prime Minister to inform the House and the public just what was brought before the cabinet, or members of the government, in connection with this matter and he has not taken advantage of that opportunity. Neither has the minister (Mr. Murdock) made any statement which would satisfy the public and clear his own reputation, and the fact of his not having done so leaves the public and this House in a condition of suspense and suspicion which might otherwise not obtain.

These considerations, and the fact that neither the minister nor the Prime Minister have seen fit to avail themselves during the many weeks of opportunity offered for explaining, have urged me to move this resolution in order that the facts may become known, and the honour of parliament and the honour of the minister too may be vindicated, and it is only from that motive that I have done it.

May I now, as briefly as I can, invite the attention of the House to the facts as they have been disclosed to me and upon such reliable authority as I will be able to produce upon an investigation and evidence, which, so far as I am personally concerned, I have not the slightest doubt was honestly given to me, and that I will be able to establish these facts, as follows:

(1) That the Home Bank on the 14th day of August, 1923 held a meeting of its directors in Toronto, when it was made evident that