

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): When an hon. member makes a statement, and another hon. member makes the accusation that the statement is absolutely untrue, in the opinion of that hon. member that may be so.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): But that is not what he said.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): When an hon. member says that another hon. member deliberately makes a misstatement, that is different.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is the accusation he made, that I had made a statement which was absolutely untrue. However, if he is not gentleman enough to retract, let it go.

Mr. DECHENE: Mr. Chairman, here is the report of what happened in the House of Commons, as it is reported at page 2590 of *Hansard* for May 4. On this page we find questions asked by the hon. member, himself. They are as follows:

Mr. Johnston (Bow River):

1. Was a quantity of Alberta tar sands sent to England?
2. If so, for what purpose?
3. In what year was it sent, and what quantity?
4. Who was the sender?
5. What was the total cost to the government of Canada?
6. What report, if any, was received by the government?

The answers on the same page are as follows:

Mr. Crerar: I have the answer to this question, but perhaps a word of explanation would be in order. At the time the shipment of tar sands was sent to England there were two departments of government dealing with it. They are now combined with the Department of Mines and Resources. There was considerable correspondence at the time, which has not been included in the answer to the questions, but certain reports that were made by officers of the department have been included. I may say there was no expense to the government in connection with the shipment of tar sands. I think the information that is relevant to the question is all here.

Department of Mines and Resources (from the standpoint of the Department of the Interior):

1. Yes.
2. Experimental purposes.
3. 1920 and 1922—21.2 tons in 1920; 20 tons in 1922.
4. General W. B. Lindsay.
5. All expenses in connection with shipments of this material from Edmonton to England were borne by General Lindsay.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is all right. Now look at page 2665. That was only part of the answer. That was the answer from the former Department of the Interior. Tell us the rest of it.

(Mr. Dechene.)

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): The hon. member for Bow River cannot interrupt unless the hon. member who has the floor consents.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I want to keep him on the right road, though.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): I have now before me a citation with respect to the point of order which has been raised. This is what I find at page 775 of *Beauchesne's Third Edition*:

February 18, 1915.

The Honourable Thomas Simpson Sproule, Speaker. It is not unparliamentary to say that a statement is untrue.

Mr. Speaker explained to the house on the 18th February, 1915, that the ruling which he had given on the 16th instant in connection with a statement of the hon. the Minister of Justice, was not that "it was unparliamentary to say of a member's statement that it was untrue", but that "it was unparliamentary to say that it was untrue to the knowledge of the member making the remarks."

Journals, House of Commons, 1915, vol. 51, page 57.

Mr. DECHENE: The other part of the question put on the order paper by the hon. member was replied to, as he said, by the Department of the Interior. The answer to the first question was yes. The answer to No. 2 notes where the tar sands were sent, and the answers to questions Nos. 3, 4 and 5 set out the cost. There is no record of any charge in connection with any shipment being delivered to the Department of Mines and Resources. That is clear enough.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The minister will not say that, though.

Mr. DECHENE: Not one dollar.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): You will not find the minister saying that.

Mr. CRERAR: If I understand correctly, the hon. member for Bow River has challenged the hon. member for Athabaska with respect to the shipment of sand to Great Britain.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I was not challenging him at all.

Mr. DECHENE: What were you doing, then?

Mr. CRERAR: I missed what was being said, but the facts are that the dominion government bore the expense of taking the sand to Edmonton, and from that time on there was no further expense.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): But that cost alone was over \$850.

Mr. GRAYDON: Let the hon. member for Athabaska finish.