

Following the correspondence, Mr. Spence went to Ottawa on March 13th, and by appointment interviewed the Minister of Justice, Hon. C. J. Doherty, who is also chairman of the Consorship Committee, and to whom the matter was referred by the Prime Minister. At this interview, Hon. Mr. Doherty was asked, and courteously agreed, that final decision of the Cabinet in the matter should be deferred until opportunity was given for presenting a full statement of the case. This decision of the Minister of Justice was concurred in by the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, in a letter under date of March 15th, in which he said:

"I shall be quite willing to concur in any decision of the Censorship Committee to postpone final action until your memorandum shall have been received."

It was while the matter was under consideration by the Department at Ottawa that information was first laid against Mr. Spence and proceedings taken in the Toronto Police Court. This will be more clearly seen from the dates given in attached statement.

Thursday, February 28th.—First copies of "The Parasite" delivered to the Alliance office.

March 7th, 12th.—Exchange of correspondence and telegrams with Government, resulting in appointment for personal interview March 13th.

March 13th.—Minister of Justice interviewed. Consented to let matter stand to afford opportunity for presentation of a brief of the case.

March 15th.—Letter from Sir Robert Borden, confirming agreement with Minister of Justice to defer decision.

March 15th.—Memo submitted to Government as per arrangement.

March 15th.—Served with summons in Toronto Police Court proceedings, and books delivered to Toronto Police.

March 18th.—First appeared in Toronto Police Court.

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The cordial relationship that existed with the Government is shown in the following extract from a letter sent by Mr. Spence to Sir Robert Borden on April 3rd:

"May I here express very profound regret at the diligent attempt in some quarters to represent me as fighting the Government. I am taking the liberty of attaching herewith a number of clippings, which I think prove conclusively that there has been the most cordial feeling towards yourself and the Government, and the warmest commendation of the action taken in regard to war-time prohibition, nor could or should it be otherwise."

The clippings enclosed, which were taken from The Pioneer, were as follows.