

his own position in the House should be fully investigated at the earliest possible moment. When the hon. member for Halifax intimated across the floor of the House some time ago that he desired to make a motion for the purpose of referring this correspondence to the Committee on Public Accounts, with the view to investigating the matter referred to therein, the hon. member for Carleton at once came to me and asked that, so far as he was concerned, no objection should be made to that motion, and that the fullest opportunity of investigation should be afforded in the Public Accounts Committee.

If, therefore, the hon. member for Halifax will be good enough to add to his motion suitable words to include the documents that were brought down yesterday by the Minister of Militia and Defence, I shall be very glad to agree that the motion pass.

Mr. GERMAN: May I ask the right hon. Prime Minister if he will allow to be included in this motion two returns which I moved for—one in reference to the purchase of tires for motor trucks for the Militia Department, and another in reference to commissions paid to P. W. Ellis & Company. I think the latter is included in the correspondence.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It is.

Mr. GERMAN: I understand that the Minister of Militia is preparing these returns; it seems to me that the whole might be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: So far as concerns all matters referred to in the return, full power will be given to the Public Accounts Committee. As to any matter outside of that, I would prefer that my hon. friend let it stand until I see precisely what the position is.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Would the motion in this form meet the point taken by the right hon. Prime Minister:

That sessional papers numbered 122 of the present session of Parliament, and all other papers in relation thereto, being copies of correspondence between the Auditor General and the Department of Militia and other departments of Government, laid upon the table of the House, in respect to expenditures under the War Expropriations Act, be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts, with power to investigate the matters therein referred to, and to report thereon from time to time.

[Sir Robert Borden.]

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Yes, I think that will cover it.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Is this motion understood by the right hon. Prime Minister to be broad enough to include my inquiry regarding the purchase of two submarines? This matter is referred to in the correspondence, and if it is understood that it will be included in the reference to the Public Accounts Committee, that will be satisfactory to me.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I really do not know precisely what is in the return, but I want to assure my hon. friend that if he is desirous of making any charges in regard to the purchase of submarines, we are prepared to grant him the fullest possible investigation. I have already brought down and laid upon the table of the House a telegram from Sir Richard McBride, in which he asked that, in view of the observations made by the hon. member for St. John, inquiry should be made into that matter. I replied that it did not seem to me that the observations which had been made in the matter merited the notice which he thought should be taken of it; to which, in reply, he said that he would very greatly regret that any suggestion should go abroad that he did not desire an investigation. He said that in view of what I had said he would leave the matter to my colleagues and myself. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has brought down and laid on the table of the House the telegram alluded to, as well as a letter from Sir Richard McBride, confirming the telegram, and including the observations which he felt called upon to make in the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia, in which he repudiated in the most cogent terms the suggestions which were made by the hon. member for St. John of improper conduct on his part in connection with the matter.

Mr. PUGSLEY: That being so, I presume there will be no objection to the Committee on Public Accounts taking this matter up with the others, because correspondence connected with it appears in the printed report.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: There will be no objection, so far as the purchase of the submarines is concerned. If any further motion is necessary I shall be willing to accept it.

Mr. W. F. GARLAND (Carleton, Ont.): I do not wish to take advantage of the present occasion to make any extended