

has named, but a committee to inquire into the whole thing. If he does not redeem the pledge now I will make a new charge—I have read the letter and I say that the government paid \$975 for each of these boilers to Brooks when the government could have bought the two for \$1,225, thereby leaving a clear margin of about \$750 that some one got. The people of Canada got no benefit for that money. Let the minister give us an investigation now.

Mr. MACPHERSON. Is the letter read by the hon. gentleman from Goldie & McCullough?

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Miller, the member for South Grey, has a letter from them direct. I wrote to a friend of my own to go and see Goldie & McCullough and he writes me what I have read: That these are the prices and the dates on which the goods were shipped and I am satisfied they are correct and the member for South Grey (Mr. Miller) will corroborate me if my hon. friend (Mr. Macpherson) wants to know anything further.

Mr. MACPHERSON. I asked the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) for my own enlightenment; I thought he was reading a letter from Goldie & McCullough.

Mr. TAYLOR. No.

Mr. MACPHERSON. As a matter of fact that letter is not from Goldie & McCullough?

Mr. TAYLOR. It is not from Goldie & McCullough; it is from a friend of mine in Galt, to whom I wrote asking him to go and see Goldie & McCullough and ascertain the dates these boilers were sold and shipped and the prices, and I know that these prices are correct.

Mr. MACPHERSON. Is that quotation from Mr. Robert Scott f.o.b. in Galt, or landed in Montreal or wherever the engines went to?

Mr. TAYLOR. They were f.o.b. Galt and shipped to F. L. Brooks & Company, Prescott.

Mr. MACPHERSON. Is the quotation given by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) f.o.b. Prescott or f.o.b. Galt?

Mr. FOWLER. It would not make any great difference because the freight to Prescott would only be about \$25 which would still leave a rake-off of \$300 on each one of these.

Mr. TAYLOR. And there is besides a cash discount which would be about equal to the freight.

Mr. MACPHERSON. I think my question is fairly pertinent. When I buy goods and pay the freight I add the freight to the cost and I fancy the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) does the same thing. The hon.

Mr. TAYLOR.

gentleman has not answered whether they were f.o.b. Galt or Prescott. As a matter of fact the letter the hon. gentleman has read and which purports to come from Goldie & McCullough is not from Goldie & McCullough.

Mr. FOWLER. In the first place the hon. gentleman from South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) did not say the letter was from Goldie & McCullough, and he cannot be held responsible for the understanding of the hon. gentleman from Vancouver. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Macpherson) simply raises a question as to the freight and that would not amount to more than \$25 or \$30 and there is still a very large balance of profit to be accounted for. In the second place it is a very singular thing that the Department of Marine should find it necessary to buy from Brooks or Merwin or whoever he may be, when they can buy from the Canadian manufacturer direct without any intermediary. What are there officers in this department for? They were able to send an officer to buy old crusted port for the 'Arctic,' and if they had an officer in the department who is such a connoisseur that they can trust him to buy wines of that character, surely they must have an officer who has sufficient knowledge of machinery to buy boilers without calling in this American agent.

Mr. NORTHRUP. It seems to me that the question whether or not there was a rake-off—however important it was a week ago—is a matter of comparatively the slightest importance in the world to-night. A week ago the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) made certain charges, and whether or not they are true is of comparatively little importance compared with the question now raised as to the right hon. the Prime Minister redeeming the pledge he deliberately gave to the House and to the people of Canada, and which pledge the hon. member for Leeds now calls on the Prime Minister to redeem. In the face of this new condition, the question of whether or not Mr. Merwin had a rake-off of \$500 or \$5,000 sinks into utter insignificance. It does seem to me that the members of this House might well be justified in declining to place any more money in the hands of this government until the Prime Minister redeems his pledge. If the statement made by the member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) is true, if the right hon. the Prime Minister did make a promise, surely Sir, it is a sad day for this House and a humiliating and disgraceful day for Canada if the right hon. gentleman's colleagues will not keep the promise he made to this House.

Mr. SAVOIE. I think this matter of the boiler is easily understood. The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) knows very well that he sells some goods to jobbers at a