

doubt it for an instant. It came to me in the first instance indirectly and before I made the motion to have these plans laid upon the table. The answer I then received from the hon. Minister of Railways, and which will be found on page 917 of Hansard, was somewhat startling.

There are no plans deposited and approved in the Department of Railways and Canals. Therefore this motion could not very well pass.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Boyce) did not say 'approved.'

Mr. EMMERSON. They cannot be dealt with unless they are approved. It would be proper to bring them before the public; that might very well serve the interests of those who wished to indulge in speculation, but I do not think it would serve the public interest.

Mr. BOYCE. Have any plans whatever been deposited, whether approved or not?

Mr. EMMERSON. They have not been approved.

Mr. BOYCE. I asked if any have been deposited?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Now, the request for the return of these plans was justified by the language of the hon. gentleman himself. Though the reason given for withholding these plans was that, while plans are in transition in the Department of Railways, under, as the minister is pleased to say, the seal of secrecy, they cannot be made public to this House, yet others, if my information be correct—and I make the statement upon the best of information, and believe it—

Mr. EMMERSON. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Boyce) give me the source of that information?

Mr. BOYCE. I state to the Minister of Railways here that I have such information. And I have investigated that information as well as time and circumstances permit—

Mr. EMMERSON. If my hon. friend will pardon me: I would be glad if he would give me the source of his information. Because, as he himself must recognize, it is a very serious charge that he is making against the officials of the department. And it is due to himself, it is due to these officials, it is due to the House, if not to me, that the source of that information should be given to me either on the floor of this House or privately, to enable me to make a proper inquiry. If my hon. friend is not prepared to do that, I am sure he would feel that, in justice to himself he should withdraw the very serious charge made against the officials of the department.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. BOYCE. The Minister of Railways evidently is taking advantage of the fact that I am a very new member.

Mr. EMMERSON. Not overly modest.

Mr. BOYCE. Perhaps I can learn somewhat in the way of modesty from the Minis-

ter of Railways (Mr. Emmerson). I had no desire to make a charge against the Department of Railways which would at all reflect upon the hon. gentleman who presides over that department. But the fact that the circumstance I refer to has been brought to my notice is beyond peradventure. I make the statement, as I made it before, that the information was given to me, that I investigated that information to a certain extent, sufficiently to satisfy me that it was not false, that it was genuine information; and I bring it to the attention of hon. members in order that the contrast between the reply of the Minister of Railways in refusing my return with the facts as they exist, and as I am informed they do exist, may be made apparent to the House.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is hardly sufficient, my hon. friend (Mr. Boyce) will permit me to say. He stated a moment ago that he knew that this information had been passed out of the back doors of the Department of Railways.

Mr. BOYCE. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will pardon me. 'Hansard' will show exactly what I did say. My reference to the back door of the department was somewhat of an allegorical one. I did not for an instant suggest that as a physical fact that the plans, or copies of the plans, had been handed out by the back door of the department, because I did not know the channel by which they were taken out. I merely meant to convey the fact—and so stated—that information had reached me which I believed to be reliable that copies of the plans so deposited had been furnished.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Then, the hon. gentleman meant to convey the information to the House that the plans had been improperly conveyed by somebody from the Department of Railways, and that the hon. gentleman himself had investigated the information, and was satisfied that it was correct. The impression is conveyed to the House, the statement is made to the House, that somebody in the Department of Railways has improperly, and in violation of his duty, given copies of these plans. Under such circumstances, I think the hon. gentleman will agree with me that it is not sufficient for him to say that he is satisfied that his information is correct. Somebody in the Department of Railways—if the hon. gentleman's information is correct—has committed a breach of his duty. We ought to know who it is, for such a person ought not to be retained in the service. It is the duty of the hon. gentleman to submit the information and make his charge, if he has charges to make.

Mr. HAGGART. This is a most extraordinary statement for the Prime Minister