

having regard to the fact that we are at the end of the session, I do not suppose any great harm would come if further discussion of the question is postponed to another time. So far as I know the report has not been fully printed; I have received only a portion. There are many observations I would like to make, but I take it that at some other time there will be adequate opportunity to do so. In view of the lateness of the hour and the near approach of the end of the session I shall defer making any further observations with respect to the matter, because I think it is one of such seriousness as warrants a most careful discussion of the circumstances under which the investigation was held and of the refusal, for instance, of the court to receive evidence as to where the five hundred dollars came from that was given to these trekkers at Regina. I could have assisted very materially in showing where that money came from. I was not given an opportunity to do so; that was shut out. There are other matters to which reference might be made, but this is not the time to do so; I prefer doing so later. But as I said, I had hoped that there would have been opportunity during the present session to discuss the matter.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Surely the case mentioned by my right hon. friend is not at all identical with this one. He mentioned something that is supposed to have happened in British Columbia.

Mr. BENNETT: It did happen.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): He has learned something from some clipping in the newspapers, but it is something that comes directly and exclusively under the jurisdiction of the province of British Columbia. We have nothing to do with it. On this matter of the riots at Regina my right hon. friend cannot claim that the province of Saskatchewan had nothing to do with the question.

Mr. BENNETT: But I say, an investigation by the federal government—

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): But there were many provincial matters connected with the case.

Mr. BENNETT: I agree.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): So much so that until the federal government decided to take a hand in it because of the Railway Act, to assist the railway companies to prevent the strikers from travelling on the trains, the opinion that had been given from Ottawa all the time since the strike started

in British Columbia and the trekkers came to Alberta was that it was a provincial matter. Until then the federal authorities claimed that it was a purely provincial matter, and Saskatchewan was not only concerned in it but did all she could for the purpose of trying to settle the difficulty. When the federal government intervened—well, they were both mixed up in the matter, and in the end it was Saskatchewan that contributed most to the solution of the difficulty and succeeded in sending the trekkers back to their respective homes.

Mr. BENNETT: We paid for that.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): And there had been loss of life. Under our law everything concerning murder and any other criminal matters is under the jurisdiction of the provinces. Surely it was the right of the province of Saskatchewan, indeed it was its business, to investigate into all that surrounded this painful occurrence, and this was done judicially and in a way that, I believe, has contributed to let the public of Canada know better what were the circumstances. At the opening of the session I told my right hon. friend that I thought it was in the interest of everybody, the police, the government and all of those who had anything to do with the matter, that it should be fully investigated. I had the greatest confidence in the personnel of the commission. I am glad that this report has been given out to the public of Canada, and I cannot understand why this should be criticized and why my right hon. friend should think it would have been better to allow the various rumours and reports that were circulated to remain uninvestigated and unanswered. It would not have been for the good of the authorities or in the interests of peace and order that the public should have been kept in ignorance of the real facts.

Mr. BENNETT: I think the hon. gentleman has not quite appreciated my point. There was provision made for a judicial investigation, because several men were charged with the commission of offences, and it is the duty of the courts to make inquiry at a properly constituted court. That is the point; and while such a court was available—and in the end that proceeding had to take place—a commission was set up, consisting in part of judges who might and would in the ordinary course have to deal with this judicially, and investigated it from another angle altogether. If a charge is made against a person, and the courts are there for the purpose of holding the fullest investigation,