

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): If the Minister waives that part of it, it is all right.

The WITNESS (Reading):

Confidential.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION,
OTTAWA, CANADA, December 16, 1927.

M. J. COLDWELL, Esq.,
1666 Athol Street,
Regina, Sask.

DEAR MR. COLDWELL: In reply to your letter of the 12th instant I can only repeat what I said in the former letter. I certainly never made a statement that I knew of members receiving money for permits. In private conversation with you as a friend I remember repeating some of the rumours I heard in this connection. I hardly expected this to go further. Now as a matter of fact I have no knowledge that any Member ever received money for permits and could not make any such statement. As to the rumours I told you of, they were much the same no doubt as your friend had heard and who was very much more guarded in his statements in Regina.

I regret the fact that you made a public statement that in any way related to a private conversation you had with me.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) ROBERT FORKE.

By Mr. Millar:

Q. I would like to ask one question before we adjourn. In the public meeting at which you and Mr. Forke spoke from the same platform—was that a political meeting?—A. Yes.

Q. Were you and Mr. Forke on opposite sides?—A. No. Mr. Forke was the House leader of the Progressive group and at that time I was running as the Progressive candidate in the city of Regina.

Q. You were asking Mr. Forke to assist you in your campaign?—A. He was speaking in various cities. I had not been in touch with Mr. Forke; the committee had been in touch with him and had arranged it.

By Hon. Mr. Edwards (Frontenac):

Q. You felt you were sufficiently acquainted with him as a candidate of the party of which he was leader to warrant you in giving a letter of introduction to your friend?—A. Yes.

Q. That was the extent of your intimacy?—A. Yes.

Q. Your political connection?—A. Yes.

By Hon. Mr. Ralston:

Q. And I understand you to say that on that occasion and the occasion in Ottawa were the only times you had met Mr. Forke personally?—A. Yes.

Q. That is correct?—A. I think so.

Q. Did not Mr. Forke address two of your schools?—A. That was the same date. Mr. Forke and I went to the political meeting in the evening together. We had a chat which probably lasted fifteen or twenty minutes on the general political situation. Then Mr. Forke went off to address a couple of meetings in, I think, the collegiate institute and the normal school.

Q. Schools under your direction?—A. No, they are not.

Q. Were you not with him?—A. No, I was not with Mr. Forke. I think Mr. J. M. Thomas was with him.

[Mr. M. J. Coldwell.]