

The CHAIRMAN: What date?

Mr. DUFF: In *The Globe* of January 16th, 1932.

The WITNESS: Yes, I have it here.

*By Mr. Duff:*

Q. Does that report of that meeting contain a retraction by Mr. Gordon with regard to certain statements he made about Major Herridge?—A. It contains a reference to those statements somewhere.

*By Mr. Howard:*

Q. Mr. Clarke, what is the headline for that article?—A. The headline is:

Liberals Organize With Unity and Vim in Central Ontario. J. J. Duffus Named President as Representatives of Dozen Ridings Gather in Cobourg—Chairman Deprecates Reference to Reported Leadership Differences. Sinclair, Moore Address Meeting.

Hon. G. N. Gordon Takes Occasion to Correct Statement Regarding Canadian Minister at Washington—B. O'Connor, Marmora, Wins. in Speaking Contest.

Q. Will you be good enough to read what you have with regard to the retraction that Mr. Gordon made?—A. I will try and locate that. It is somewhere down in the report. This is quoting Mr. Gordon:—

Hon. G. N. Gordon, Peterborough, took the opportunity of referring to his statements made recently regarding the Canadian Minister at Washington. He said he had done an injustice to Major Herridge as to his going to England on his honeymoon when on official business for the government. The brief Mr. Gordon said he had received had interposed the wrong year of Mr. Herridge's trip to England, which Mr. Gordon said had misled him. Mr. Gordon said he had always found the source of his information reliable and trustworthy, and regretted that it failed him and caused him to criticize Mr. Herridge unfairly.

Mr. DUFF: Mr. Clarke, would you consider that a retraction of the remarks that Mr. Gordon made with regard to Mr. Herridge at Hamilton and Lindsay?

Mr. BOWMAN: Surely, Mr. Chairman, that is not for the witness to say.

The CHAIRMAN: We are the judges.

Mr. DUFF: I know; but Mr. Clarke certainly has an opinion as a newspaper man, and I am asking him as a newspaper man what is his opinion.

The CHAIRMAN: It is only a case of saving time. I have no objection to your asking the question.

Mr. DUFF: I think, Mr. Chairman, we might as well go into this thing thoroughly. The reason I am asking this question is because I want the committee to see what the public think about this whole matter, whether it is only a tempest in a tea pot or something serious.

Mr. GAGNON: I think we ought to follow the same line as we do before a court of justice.

The CHAIRMAN: I think you see the point, Mr. Duff. I am just pointing out that we have got to settle that.

*By Mr. Duff:*

Q. Well, the report you have just read a moment ago, Mr. Clarke, appeared in *The Globe*, and would you say that was a fairly accurate account of what Mr. Gordon said at Cobourg?—A. At Cobourg?

Q. Yes.—A. I would say it is.