

part of certain gentlemen in favour of their friends, and also, I fear, from applicants themselves, which is not in accordance exactly with the position of a judge. The Government are certainly very seriously to blame, because the result is that parties and their witnesses are bound to appear in court in accordance with their summonses, and as there is no judge to try their cases, they have to go to their homes and lose another day; all to please this Government and their friends. This is a monstrous iniquity under the circumstances. If it were not that the Government are holding this matter over to serve their own political ends and their own political friends, they would easily find time to make an appointment, notwithstanding the opposition that is given to their obnoxious measures by the Opposition in this House. It is a great injustice to the province of Prince Edward Island that this seemingly small matter could not be attended to by the Government.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think my right hon. friend answered this question in a serious way. I could not for a moment have imagined that the excuse he would give for retarding the operations of justice in any part of the Dominion would be the frivolous one that the Opposition in this House had been criticising Government measures. I think he ought to give a more serious excuse than that, and I am quite sure that he will. This is an important matter because the interests of justice depend upon it. This office has been vacant, I understand, for about three months, and everything before the county court has been at a standstill because there has been no judge. I understand that there is no machinery in the province to get over the difficulty, and that the only way in which it can be got over at all is by the appointment of a new judge, which makes it all the more necessary that this matter should be attended to. It is a serious matter where litigants and other people interested in cases are looking to the courts at their regular appointed times to adjudicate upon them. There should have been no difficulty at all in appointing a judge. Two minutes of dictation by the Premier, after consultation with his colleague from Prince Edward Island, would have put the matter before Council, and a judge could have been appointed without trouble and without loss of any time. I am sure my right hon. friend will not regard his excuse as germane. I imagine that there is little deeper difficulty than that. I imagine that there is a political difficulty somewhere. I imagine that my right hon. friend and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) have not been quite able yet to settle between contesting claims, with reference especially to consequences that may follow on some of these claims being allowed and certain appointments being made. That is

the difficulty and however much we may give a reasonable breadth and leniency to the Government in making appointments, when judgeships are concerned, party politics ought to take a back seat, and the interests of justice ought to be arranged for by a speedy appointment. I hope my hon. friend will be able to give a better excuse than that Her Majesty's Opposition have been doing their duty in this House.

The PRIME MINISTER. I must say that the excuse which I gave to my hon. friend was not intended as a final one, for the reason that I was taken unawares, and I did not know exactly the condition of affairs in regard to the matter. I know that there is a vacancy on the bench in Prince Edward Island, and that is about all I know. Unfortunately the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is ill to-day and not in the House. I shall have to see him and consult the Minister of Justice about it. It is my duty to give an answer to the very legitimate inquiry of my hon. friend, and if the matter is as represented by the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) that there is no machinery in the island whereby the place of the judge can be filled by another, it is a serious matter and requires proper attention.

Mr. SPROULE. I am a little surprised at the remark of the hon. leader of the Government, because this matter was brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice in the other Chamber over a week ago. He was told that unless the appointment were made by to-morrow it would be utterly impossible to go on with the work of the court; and I believe he gave the assurance that he would bring the matter at once to the attention of the Prime Minister and have it attended to.

SUPPLY.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself in Committee of Supply.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Yukon Provisional District—Salaries and expenses in connection with the administration of the territory..... \$76,300

Mr. FOSTER. How often do the placer miners clean up? Do they take out their gold dust every day? If so, where is it stored in the meantime? And how often do they make a report to the Government or the mining inspector?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). They report every fifteen days to the mining inspector.

Mr. FOSTER. If he happens to be away, do they send the report in to Dawson?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Either to the mining inspector or to somebody who takes his place in the office down at the creek. Before the police took charge