

MR. EUGENE BLANCHET'S DISMISSAL.

Mr. GILLIES (for Mr. Casgrain) asked :

Is the Honourable Minister of Railways and Canals aware that Eugène Blanchet, of Fraser-ville, is actually employed as section foreman between Rivière du Loup and Cacouna, and that he was paid as such in the course of April?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Yes, I am now informed that Eugène Blanchet of Fraser-ville is employed as section foreman between Rivière du Loup and Cacouna, and I believe he was paid in April for work performed as section foreman during the month of March.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would suggest, that, as usual, we run through those notices of motion on which there is no discussion.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). Very well.

MR. WILLIAM McCARTHY, FENELON FALLS.

On motion for :

Copies of all correspondence between the Department of Railways and Canals, or any officer or officers thereof, and Wm. McArthur, of Fenelon Falls, in regard to the dispensing with his services.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I may inform the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) that the passage of this resolution would be entirely useless. There is no correspondence in the department relating to this officer, and the hon. gentleman will see, therefore, that there will be no advantage in pressing the motion.

Mr. HUGHES. All I have to say is that the hon. Minister must have given a very peculiar answer to my question some time ago, because he distinctly—

Mr. SPEAKER. We cannot discuss the matter at present. The motion must stand.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE LATE GOVERNMENT.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved for :

Copy of Schedule B, showing recommendations of the Treasury Board as submitted by report of Council to His Excellency the Governor General on the 6th and 7th July, 1896, and intended to be approved by him, laid upon the Table of the House last session, with a statement of the action taken by the Government on each of these appointments as made by the said Order in Council approved by His Excellency, or, where no action has been taken, the reason for such a course.

He said : I regret to say that any necessity should have arisen for making this motion,

Mr. BLAIR.

which I certainly do not think should have been required. The House will remember that this matter was the subject of a discussion between the First Minister and myself ; and I am quite sure that the House will be surprised to learn by a paper laid upon the Table of the House by the First Minister, stating the appointments which had been approved by His Excellency the Governor General and thus making public to the House and to the country the fact that His Excellency the Governor General had sanctioned this Order in Council—the House, I say, will be surprised to learn that these appointments have been treated, I think, in a very extraordinary manner, the most extraordinary manner which any appointments ever emanating from the Government of Canada, have been treated before. The House will remember that on the occasion of that discussion in reference to the change of Government, I showed to the House that on the occasion of the defeat of Mr. Mackenzie and his Government, of which the present First Minister was a member, Lord Dufferin, in the discharge of his duties as Governor General, sanctioned every appointment suggested or proposed by the Government of Mr. Mackenzie of which, as I say, the present First Minister was a member without any exception or qualification whatever. The hon. gentleman knows these appointments, 116 in all, if I remember aright, in addition to 17 promotions, were made by a Government that had just sustained a defeat at the hands of the people by one of the most overwhelming majorities that ever overturned an Administration in Canada, or perhaps relatively in almost any other country. The majority by which Mr. Mackenzie's Government was defeated will be found, I think on reference to the Journals, to have been between 80 and 90 in a House of 215 members. A reference to the character of the appointments, the details of which were laid on the Table of the House last session, will show that they were of the most important nature, that they included a large number of the most important appointments that could be made in Canada, ranging from Judges, of the Supreme Court down to County Court Judges, also a large number of officials holding very high and important positions, one of the hon. gentleman's friends being appointed as Deputy Minister, although he had been quite a short time in the public service. Every recommendation by the Government of which Mr. Mackenzie was Premier, although that Government was defeated by an overwhelming majority, was sanctioned by an able Governor General, in fact one of the most able and experienced Governors General that Canada ever had, without any exception whatever. I will not refer to other recommendations made, although they included large additions to salaries which had not previously been sanctioned by Parliament ; but every