

a statement of the officials of the department in my constituency who had been dismissed. That promise was repeated on several occasions since, but not implemented, so far as I know.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. McDougall) will kindly send me a note of the matter, I will call the attention of the department to it.

THE QUEEN VS. SKELTON ET AL.

Mr. DAVIN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the Government—though I do not see the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) in his place, to the fact that early in the session, I had an interview with the Minister of Justice respecting the case of the Queen vs. Skelton et al., and I told him that I understood that application was to be made to him for a new trial. He told me that at the time no application had been made. I asked him if I should be notified if the application was made, and whether I should have an opportunity to see the affidavits and if I should be heard before the Minister came to a decision. The Minister told me definitely that nothing would be done *ex parte*. Well, time passed on, and the first thing I heard after that was that Mr. Skelton had been here in Ottawa. Then I spoke to the Solicitor General about the matter. However, on Friday week I saw the Minister of Justice, and he promised to give me a copy of the affidavits. He told me then that he had had communications and that he would hear me. I said: What could I say unless I have the papers before me? He told me he would let me have a copy of the affidavits. I have never had a copy of the affidavits yet. I saw the Minister of Justice informally on the right of the Chair on Friday, and I said: I have not received a copy of those affidavits. He told me the papers had been mislaid, but now I should have them. Since seeing the hon. the Minister of Justice on the right of the Chair, I have received a telegram from Battleford saying that a new trial had been granted. I must say I feel I have something to complain of. However, what I want now is, before the Estimates of the Department of Justice are brought up, to ask the Solicitor General, or as he does not seem to be in his place, to ask the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) whether all the papers will now be laid on the Table?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I think my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) has been misinformed in being told that a new trial has been granted. I am not aware that such a thing has taken place, and I do not believe it has. The hon. gentleman asked me if the papers would be laid on the Table. I cannot give him an answer upon that point until I have con-

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sulted the Minister of Justice. I may say, however, that if the matter has been disposed of by the Minister of Justice, I can see no reason why the papers should not be laid on the Table. But the hon. gentleman will understand that if the matter is still open, I cannot say that the papers will be brought down.

Mr. DAVIN. I suppose that I should put the matter in this form: First, to ask whether a new trial has been granted, and if so, will the papers be laid upon the Table?

The PRIME MINISTER. I am not aware that a new trial has been granted, but I will inquire.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Mr. GILLIES. I desire to ask the leader of the House, as I do not see the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) in his place, when the papers relating to the dismissal of Joseph McNell, Point Jérôme, St. Peters, will be brought down? The hon. Minister promised some time ago that they should be brought down, and I have had an intimation from an officer in the department that they are ready.

WESTERN ASSINIBOIA AND THE IMMIGRATION HAND-BOOK.

Mr. DAVIN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) to a portion of his hand-book, and, to put myself in order, I shall conclude with a motion. The matter to which I wish to refer is one of very great importance to the North-west Territories, as the House will see. If there is a misrepresentation of some of the most successful parts of the Territory appearing in the hand-book; "The official hand-book of information relating to the Dominion of Canada, 1897; published with the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, by the Government of Canada," it will be seen to be a matter of great importance, and if there is such a misrepresentation it should be repudiated at the earliest possible moment by those who are acquainted with the facts, and I venture to say, by the Minister of the Interior himself, the moment he finds out what it is. I have a copy of the book here, and I read from page 84 where, under the prominent heading "Western Assiniboia," I find the following:—

The western two-thirds of Assiniboia is almost entirely composed of open plains, which, with the exception of the localities immediately adjoining the towns of Regina and Moose Jaw, and in the vicinity of the Wood Mountains and Cypress Hills, described more fully further on, are devoid at present of settlement, and unsuited to agriculture without the aid of irrigation. In the districts near Regina and Moose Jaw, and in the valley of the Qu'Appelle River, to the north of these towns, considerable settlement has taken place, but the success attending farming opera-