

Mr. MACLEAN: It is a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. A day or so after the occasion to which I refer I noticed that some of the London press and some of the Canadian press, notably the Montreal Herald, stated that on that Wednesday evening, at six o'clock, when the House rose, there appeared on the floor of the House several policemen for the purpose of maintaining order and preserving peace between the members. After observing these statements, I recollected quite clearly that at six o'clock and immediately after you, Sir, left the Chair, there did appear in this Chamber some policemen. Whatever be the indiscretions of hon. gentlemen in this House, on either side, during the business of Parliament, in my judgment, it is not and never will be necessary to invoke the intervention of any police. An incident of this kind tends to bring this House, its members, and its proceedings, into disrepute; and I say emphatically that there was no reason whatever why policemen should have been seen upon the floor of this House on that occasion. With all due deference to you, Sir, or to such persons as saw fit to order the presence of policemen upon the floor of this House, I would say that it was absolutely unnecessary, and I think that hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House are entitled to some explanation of this incident.

Mr. BORDEN: As far as I am concerned, I saw neither the paragraph to which the hon. member alludes nor the policemen.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACLEAN: My right hon. friend need have no doubt as to the presence of policemen in this Chamber on that occasion. That statement of mine need occasion no laughter on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. BORDEN: So far as I am concerned, it is the first that I have heard of it; and no one on this side of the House, so far as I am aware, had anything at all to do with the presence of the policemen, if they did appear.

Mr. SPEAKER: No order was given for any policeman to be in the House or to come to this House; nor were there any other policemen than those two or three who are usually around the House. Occasionally one takes charge of the Chamber from six to eight o'clock. That was the only one who was in the House that evening. I do not know whether he was in the Chamber or not that evening at six o'clock; I did not see him.

Mr. HAZEN: While these matters are before the House, Mr. Speaker, I might rise to a question of privilege. A para-

Mr. SPEAKER.

graph appeared in the Toronto Globe, and also in Le Canada published in the city of Montreal, stating that on Wednesday at six o'clock, when you left the Chair, I immediately rushed to the room of the chief whip and demanded protection. It is hardly necessary for me to say that the statement does not contain anything of the essential element of truth, but is entirely false in every respect. I am generally able to defend myself, and I was able on Wednesday night to defend myself had there been any necessity to do so.

#### NATURALIZATION—RUSSIAN-CANADIANS SENT TO SIBERIA.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Referring to what my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) has said, everybody will believe that he needs no protection against our side, seeing that they are about fifty stronger than we are. I rise to call the attention of the Prime Minister to a despatch from Calgary recently published, which is as follows:

Calgary, Alta., April 5.—Gersha Tarsus, a Russian, is raising a fund in the prairie provinces to bring about the pardon of three brothers, Alberta homesteaders, who have been exiled for life to Siberia for alleged evasion of war service during the Russo-Japanese struggle. The brothers took out homesteads here and prospered, and last year visited relatives in their native town in Russia. On their arrival they were arrested by the Russian authorities, tried by court martial for evasion of military duty, and, although citizens of Canada, were sent to Siberia for life. A peculiar phase of the case is that if the men had taken out naturalization papers in Great Britain, England could have prevented the exile, but as they are Canadian citizens and not British subjects, the British authorities declined to interfere.

This brings up in concrete form a matter which we debated in this House some time ago—the effect of naturalization in Canada. It was stated at the time, and quite correctly, that, under the law, although foreigners may be naturalized and become British subjects in Canada, one so naturalized ceases to be a British subject the moment he leaves Canada. As will be noticed, the despatch goes on to state that the British authorities declined to interfere on behalf of these men. I do not know whether the matter has been called to the attention of the Prime Minister; but, if not, I will place the paper in his hands. He may find some way to call the attention of the authorities to the matter for the benefit of these Canadian citizens.

Mr. BORDEN: The paragraph had not come to my attention. I will mention the matter to the Minister of Justice, to see if we can make any representations in the matter which will be useful.