

the force is settled, arrangements are being made by the home authorities for the camp and other arrangements.

There is to be a contingent from Canada of 600 or 700 men. These are mostly young privates who, in due time, I hope, become men of standing in the country; but very few officers are going. I do not know whether the composition or nature of the contingent is prescribed by the Imperial authorities or by the Canadian authorities; but if it could be arranged that a number of officers, men who have given splendid service in the militia force of Canada, and who have earned the honour, could be selected, I am satisfied that this would meet with the approbation of the force throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. I do not for a moment object to the noncommissioned officers and privates going; they are the men who will in due time become officers of the force; but if there is any possibility of sending some of the officers who in the past have given their services to the country, at great expense and inconvenience to themselves, I maintain that these are the men who should first obtain recognition. If the government have any control over the matter, I would be pleased if they would give it their consideration.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I regret that my colleague the Minister of Militia is not here in his seat to give my hon. friend the information he desires. My impression is that he has already stated to the House the lines on which he intends to select the force for the coronation. I believe it is intended to have 750, all told. I will ask my colleague to look at the observations of my hon. friend, and he will perhaps give his answer later on.

Mr. HUGHES. I see that the great majority of the contingent from India are officers who have obtained standing in the service.

THE NEW PLAZA.

Mr. J. D. REID. I see that the government are calling for tenders for the new plaza opposite the Ottawa post office, and I would suggest that before the contract is let, provision be made for removing the unsightly poles which are standing in that locality.

THE CENSUS ENUMERATORS.

Mr. JOHN A. BEST (Dufferin). Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Agriculture is not in his seat, I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he is aware that some of the census enumerators in the county of Dufferin are going about trying to get signatures to a petition in favour of reciprocity. I would ask if the government is paying these men, or who is paying them,

Mr. HUGHES.

for doing so, or if they have received instructions to go out and get signatures to a petition of that kind.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am quite sure that they are not paid by the government. They will not go into office as enumerators until the first of June or thereabouts. I know of no fund in connection with reciprocity except the anti-reciprocity fund.

Mr. BEST. I am aware that they have been appointed by the enumerator for the county of Dufferin.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not think they have been appointed yet. The order for the appointment of enumerators is not yet issued.

Mr. HUGHES. Perhaps they are only qualifying for the job.

RECIPROCITY—INQUIRY FOR INFORMATION.

Mr. PERLEY. On the 16th of March last a return was ordered by this House, on motion of Mr. Sharpe (Ontario), calling for a statement showing the average prices of butter and eggs in London, England, for the past five years, in comparison with the prices respectively in the Eastern Provinces, in Montreal, in Toronto, in Minneapolis, in Chicago, in Detroit, in Buffalo, in Boston and in New York. In response to this order, the following answer was brought down last Friday:

Trade and Commerce Department,
Ottawa, 25th March, 1911.
Order of the House.

Sir,—I beg to return you herewith your reference No. 172 for statement showing comparative prices of butter and eggs in London, England, and certain points in Canada and the United States. This department has no information upon the subject. Such average prices of butter and eggs, however, are published in trade papers all over the world which can be referred to by any one desiring the information.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
F. C. T. O'HARA,
Deputy Minister.

Thomas Mulvey, Esq.,
Under secretary of State,
Ottawa.

This reply simply shows that the Department of Trade and Commerce has not got the statistics in its possession, and I wish to register as strong a protest as I can against the government giving an answer of this kind or of refusing us information of this sort. The motion for this information was moved in the ordinary way in this House, and was agreed to unanimously, and I take it that it is the inalienable right of this House to obtain from the government such information as is necessary for the conduct of the business of this House. This information is required for the discussion