

They have had difficulties to surmount in the north far greater than what they will have in the Klondike. Take 50 or 100 of our bush men who are accustomed to that kind of work, and I believe they would make a road through our own country from Edmonton without interfering with any foreign land, and in the end it would be a benefit to the country and no one would have any cause for complaint. But, as it is now, there is a lurking feeling that this measure is one which had not been well considered. Of course, I am not going to blame any one man or set of men. It may have been on account of great difficulties with which I am not acquainted. There may have been international questions of which we know nothing, as the Minister of Justice intimated the other day. I may say I did not like the way the hon. gentleman mentioned it; it seemed to me that it was almost an attempt at intimidation as if there were matters that if we knew of them we might alter our opinion. I like to hear everything discussed rightly, and everything called by its right name; I like to call a spade a spade and to know exactly what is the course of the government, and I think they should take the country in their confidence if there is something behind it. I do not wish to detain the House any longer. I have taken up a good deal of time. I have stated merely on my own view of certain facts as a business man. I hope we will in all sincerity do the best we can and that when we arrive at a conclusion we will find we have discharged our duty honestly and faithfully to our premier and to the country.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. MILLS moved :

That pursuant to Rule 79, the following Senators be appointed a Committee of Selection, to nominate the Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees, namely:—The Honourable Messieurs Scott, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, DeBoucherville, Lougheed, Miller, McDonald (B.C.), Clemow, Power, and the mover; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the Senators so nominated.

He said:—I have substituted Mr. Macdonald in the place of Mr. King, according to the wish of my hon. friend (Sir Mackenzie Bowell) opposite.

Hon. Mr. PROWSE—I call the attention of the hon. leader of the House to the fact that there is no member on that committee from the province of Prince Edward Island. I know it is a very small province and we have not many senators here—less than our usual number at present, but I wish to call attention to this fact that this is merely a committee to nominate senators to serve on the several committees of the House, and it is desirable that every province should be represented on that committee. Prince Edward Island has not been represented before, and the result was that on one committee we had three representatives from Prince Edward Island, while on other important committees there was no member from the Island at all; and I would suggest that the leader should add to that committee the name of the Hon. Mr. Ferguson.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—What the hon. gentleman has said also applies to New Brunswick. I do not see a senator from that province upon it. Mr. King was on it, but he is put off. I think we ought certainly to be entitled to one as well as Prince Edward Island, and it is hard to see why a new member, and a competent member, should be put off and another placed on the committee at the *ipsi dixit* of a member of this House.

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—The same remark would apply to Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—The committee is exactly as it was last year, except that I substituted Mr. King for Mr. McInnes, and as Mr. McInnes was from British Columbia and my friend Mr. King did not care to serve on the committee, I suggested the name of Mr. Macdonald of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—I dare say you have done your duty, but at the same time, injustice is done to New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. PROWSE—I trust the case that appeared in the selection of the committees last year will not appear this year, that is, that certain provinces will be excluded from most important committees, such as the Railway Committee, and three members from Prince Edward Island placed on one committee, and that a joint committee of both Houses.