

### QUESTIONS.

#### DOMINION DAY.

Mr. ELSON asked :

Why was our national flag, the Union Jack, not hoisted on the tower of the parliament buildings on the occasion of celebrating our national or Dominion day ?

Hon. CHAS. HYMAN (Minister of Public Works). The flag was flying on the 1st July on the central tower for the celebration of Dominion Day.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND CLAIM TO UNGAVA BAY, LABRADOR.

Mr. GERVAIS asked :

1. Is the government aware of the interview given on the 3rd July, 1906, to the Montreal 'Herald' by Sir Robert Bond, Prime Minister of Newfoundland, as follows :

On being asked if he had anything to say with regard to the claim put forward by Newfoundland to jurisdiction over Ungava bay and the eastern coast line of Canada, north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence—a claim which Mr. Morine has stated to be based upon the old boundary arrangement under which Labrador was held to extend 100 miles back from the coast to the shore of the gulf. Sir Robert replied that he was not in a position to discuss the matter. The initiatory steps with a view to negotiations on the subject had been taken, and under the circumstances he could not express an opinion on the subject ?

2. Is the government aware that a great many of the fishermen of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and other interested parties never yielded to the claim of Newfoundland for the establishment of a system of judicial authority and fishery licenses over the Labrador coast and the contiguous waters, all within the boundaries of Canada, as defined by the treaties and imperial statutes ?

3. Is the government aware that the imperial authorities never entertained such a claim made on behalf of Newfoundland ?

4. Is it the intention of the government to contest, without any further delay, the pretensions of Newfoundland, either before the proper administrative or judicial authorities, or by way of arbitration ?

5. Is it the intention of the government to issue more maps of the Dominion of Canada, purporting to show that a part of the Labrador coast does not come within the exclusive jurisdiction of Canada ?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). The government has seen the interview mentioned by my hon. friend in his first question. In reply to questions 2, 3 and 4 negotiations have been entered into with the Newfoundland government with the view of arriving at a solution of the respective claims of each government, and nothing can be disclosed until these negotiations are completed. In reply to question 5, the question is now under consideration.

#### BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

Mr. SPROULE. On Saturday evening I drew attention to an item in the 'Globe,'

Mr. W. ROCHE.

which said that in the conferring of birthday honours recently, some had been given at the instance of His Excellency without regard to the views of his responsible advisers. I would ask the right hon. the leader of the House if there be any truth in that statement; and if so, what is the opinion of the government in that regard ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The statement is without foundation.

#### SELECT COMMITTEES—POWER TO RECOMMEND EXPENDITURE.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Before the orders of the day are called, I would like to make some reference to the power of select committees to make recommendations involving an outlay of public money. In that connection I would like to quote the authority of Mr. May, in the latest edition of his book of parliamentary procedure, page 393 :

Select committees are able to consider and to report to the House resolutions recommending an outlay of public money for the purposes therein specified, without the previous signification of the Royal recommendation, because such a resolution is classed among those abstract resolutions by the House in favour of public expenditure, which are in the nature of suggestions, and not in themselves binding upon the action of the House.

I mention this because I believe it was intended to take some exception to the action of a committee in this respect. It would seem to be in order according to this authority, that a select committee should make a recommendation, though it is not binding on the House.

Mr. FIELDING. The question arose on a proposal to adopt a report containing such a recommendation. My hon. friend will admit that no recommendation could be effective except endorsed by a recommendation from the Crown. Effectively you can do nothing except on a recommendation from the Crown, but it is quite possible that a report may be submitted recommending an expenditure of public money.

Mr. SPROULE. This is following out what has been the practice of the House for the last twenty years.

#### RULES OF THE HOUSE.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved that the House go into committee to consider the report of the special committee appointed to revise the rules of the House. He said : I have only a few observations to offer. The rules we have adopted contain only four important departures. The most important, in a certain sense, is the new rule regarding the attendance of members to be registered and a record kept, the same as in the Senate and in the Australian colonies and some other legislatures. The second is that we have adopted the English rule