

suitable for the work there, and the Civil Service Commissioners sent him to the Experimental Farm. He has been working there ever since, he is a thoroughly good official, and nobody objects to his being there.

Mr. BLAIN. May I ask if the Department of Marine and Fisheries gave him a trial or was he just sent to my hon. friend's department.

Mr. FISHER. I have no information on that point.

Mr. BLAIN. The House is entitled to the information because that is the charge which is made by the hon. member for North Essex (Mr. Wilcox). His charge was that this man had applied to the Department of Marine and Fisheries for employment, and I think he said that he was on trial in that department and passed an examination, but was afterwards sent to the Agriculture Department on account of his colour.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). According to the statement of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver), there seems to be a good deal of scope in respect of such matters, and everything depends upon whether the regulations are administered strictly or with some laxity. It would be very unfortunate if any impression got abroad that any person, coming as an immigrant, was to be excluded simply because of his colour. There are a great many people of that race in different parts of Canada. They are good, honest, law abiding citizens and a credit to the communities in which they live. Some of their settlements have existed in this country for 150 years and others—I am speaking more particularly of my own province of Nova Scotia—for about 100 years. There are many communities of these excellent citizens in Nova Scotia, and it would be most unfortunate if the impression got abroad that these regulations were to be construed so as to exclude any immigrant by reason of his colour. My hon. friend from North Essex (Mr. Wilcox), asked several questions, and the Minister of the Interior says that some of them do not concern his department. If that be the case, the minister in charge of the particular department concerned ought to answer. The questions were not addressed to the Minister of the Interior alone but to the government as a whole; and the admonition which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, gave a little while ago as to the duty of ordinary members of parliament to be in their seats and know what is going on, applies, I should say, with quite equal force to ministers of the Crown, especially in matters affect-

Mr. FISHER.

ing their own departments. So that if there be any other minister concerned in this question, we should have his answer before this matter is allowed to pass.

#### RECIPROCITY—RESOLUTIONS OF ASSOCIATIONS RE

Mr. TAYLOR (New Westminster). Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, there are certain communications which I have received, which I wish to read to the House.

Mr. SPEAKER. I understand that objection was taken the other day on both sides to the reading of petitions, telegrams and other documents relating to reciprocity on the motion to go into Supply. Does the correspondence to which the hon. gentleman refers relate to reciprocity?

Mr. TAYLOR (New Westminster). I submit that communications of the utmost importance to my constituents, having been sent to me for presentation to the House and being of the same nature as a large number of other communications presented to the House by ministers and others, it would be an injustice to me and a straining of the rules of parliament to rule that these particular citizens should not be heard when so many others have been heard to the same effect. I submit that I am within the rules in offering these communications on going into Supply, and I am justified in doing so by the precedents already set.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). If these communications relate to matters which are not already in the possession of the House, I quite agree with my hon. friend, but if he desires to bring to the notice of the House resolutions touching the question of reciprocity, he is not in order in doing so on the motion to go into Supply, as that question has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. TAYLOR (New Westminster). My object is to read certain communications which I have been requested by my constituents to read to the House.

Mr. FIELDING. I am quite willing to wait until the hon. gentleman declares to what these communications refer, but I presume they refer to the matter of reciprocity as he pleads to be heard on the ground that some other hon. gentlemen have been permitted to read documents coming in the same category. While I took no exception whatever to the presentation of such papers from time to time, I quite agree with my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster), in the point he raised, that the introduction of such