

any objection on the part of the government to laying them upon the Table of the House?

The PRIME MINISTER. If my hon. friend will read the Speech from the Throne he will have his answer. The speech says they will be brought down.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. W. S. Fielding). Do you want them brought down before the address passes?

Mr. MONK. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition, probably suffering from those wicked dreams to which the right hon. gentleman refers, has found fault with the government because no reference has been made in the Speech from the Throne to the sending of the third contingent to South Africa. In this connection it seems to me that it may be stated that the government seemed to be imbued with the desire to keep from parliament information upon such an important subject as that to which parliament has a right. It is in consonance with the usual policy of the government to do every important act connected with the administration of this country without previously taking parliament into its confidence or keeping parliament informed of these important acts of administration. It is, I think, Sir, a proper interpretation of our modern constitutional parliamentary usages to say that the government is nothing more than a committee of parliament, but these gentlemen would fain bring us back to the times, about 150 years ago, when, in England, parliament was struggling for its privileges and the members of parliament were not vouchsafed the information which they possess to-day, because, if, as I pointed out, the government last year, during a session of parliament, in the month of March, offered to the home government to send another contingent to South Africa, why were we not taken into the confidence of the government and informed of the fact, as we had a right to be and why was not the message which was sent offering that contingent to the home government laid before us who are here as representatives of the people? I would ask the government again if it has any objection to laying on the table of the House immediately the very text of the message which it sent to the home government at the time offering the third contingent.

The PRIME MINISTER. Not the slightest.

Mr. MONK. My hon. friend from West York (Mr. Campbell), who is an old member of parliament, has found means to express a great deal of loyalty, for which I heartily congratulate him, and which leads me to believe that the county which accidentally has sent him to parliament this time is a very loyal county. I congratulate him upon his patriotic sentiments, because I remember that as the member for Kent, he was

one of those who promptly whitewashed the government which had seen fit to provide our troops in South Africa, in case of emergency, as their sole recourse, with crumpled dog biscuit. But, if in this respect, my hon. friend has amended his ways, I regret that he has not seen fit, while praising the government as he has done, to make some slight allusion to a matter of some importance to West York, as well as to my own county, and which brought us both to Ottawa not many weeks ago. It was the question of the adequate and proper protection of our farmers and market gardeners. At that moment, both of us being here, leading important deputations from our constituencies, I heard my hon. friend take the government to task and strongly urge the government to grant some relief for the grievances from which the gardeners of his own county suffered. Does the right hon. Prime Minister not think that the government might have given us some assurance in the Speech from the Throne comparable with the assurances which were given at that time, before the election, that these grievances, which are serious grievances, and to which I will refer later on in the session, would be rectified, or does he think that the government very properly excluded any reference to that subject from the Speech from the Throne?

There is also the question of repatriation, which is of some importance, and which has not been referred to in the Speech from the Throne. We have the spectacle, as is well known, of large numbers of our most hopeful young men leaving, if I mistake not, the province of Nova Scotia, the province of New Brunswick, and in very large numbers, leaving Quebec, and probably Ontario, and starting off for the United States, whilst we are spending, and that was a question discussed during the last election in the vicinity of Montreal, fabulous sums to bring into the North-west Territories, into our own inheritance, to replace those who are leaving this country, people who have not the first right in that country, and whom it would be better to leave at home, and keep with us our own Canadians. Has the government any policy upon this question, and why has it not announced that policy? Would it not have been pleasant for us to hear from the government that they have some settled views in regard to a change in the system and that these views will be carried into effect during the present session?

My hon. friend from Beauce (Mr. Bédard), whom I heard with very great pleasure this afternoon, and who speaks both languages, I think, in a manner which does him infinite credit, was obliged to go out of the Speech from the Throne. He did not find sufficient food for his eloquence in the speech, he went out from it, and spoke to us about the surplus we were to