

HOISTING THE UNION JACK.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—I wish to call attention to the following despatch in the 'Star' of Tuesday:

WILL NOT HOIST UNION JACK.

London, May 12.—In the House of Commons, Premier Asquith stated he did not think it advisable to order the hoisting of Union Jacks on government buildings on Empire Day.

I want to bring this to the attention of the House and of the country, to see how we stand on the question of hoisting the Union Jack. Will it be hoisted at Quebec at the Tercentenary celebration, or shall we follow the course pursued in England? There is a good deal of talk about loyalty in this country, and I want to know how this decision of the Premier of England is going to affect us in Canada?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think it will rather stimulate this country to have more Union Jacks hoisted on Empire Day. I am quite sure it will not reduce the number.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the Premier of England has given instructions that the Union Jack shall not be raised on public buildings in England on Empire Day?

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—No, it does not say that. But he stated in the House of Commons that he did not think it advisable to order the hoisting of the Union Jack on government buildings on Empire Day.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—If that be the declaration of the Premier of England, it is about time we let him know that we propose to raise the Union Jack whenever we please. If you refer to correspondence which took place a very short time ago, in which the question arose as to the propriety of raising the Union Jack with the Canadian emblem or something to indicate that it was a Canadian flag, the Lords of the Admiralty took objection to it; but the answer made by the Secretary to Canada at that time was that we were at liberty to hoist the Union Jack whenever we pleased, and an expression of opinion from this House and also the House of Commons to that effect would not be out of place. It should be in such terms that it could not be misunderstood.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I suppose an expression of opinion from the parliament of Canada on the propriety of hoisting the Union Jack in England will have a great effect upon the imperial government. If there is any man in the empire who ought to know when to hoist the Union Jack, it should be the Premier of England, who is the adviser of the Sovereign, and it is not for us to give a lesson to the Premier of England. I find it extraordinary on the part of this honourable House to dictate a line of policy, in regard to loyalty to the Crown, to the Prime Minister of England.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Who is the Prime Minister of England?

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—The hon. gentleman ought to know that Mr. Asquith is the premier, and that he is responsible to the entire empire for the maintenance of loyalty to the British Crown. He has stated on the floor of the House of Commons that it is not necessary or even advisable to instruct the authorities to hoist the flag on the public buildings of that country on Empire Day. Why should we, in our capacity as colonists, undertake to dictate to the Premier of England what he should do towards the empire or His Majesty? I fail to see that a lesson from us in that respect would be well accepted in England. They are in a better position to judge what is necessary in regard to that matter than we are.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I rise to a point of order. How does the hon. gentleman know that they understand their duty so well?

Hon. Mr. POWER—There is nothing before the chair.

The SPEAKER—There is no question before the chair. Call the first order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—There is the question raised by the hon. senator from Rothesay.

The SPEAKER—That question has been answered.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—There is no question which has been answered.

The SPEAKER—It has been answered by the hon. Secretary of State.