

Mr. BORDEN: I did not know that my right hon. friend had brought it to the attention of the House. If he can show that he did so, I shall be very glad to make the correction.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Yes, it was brought to the attention of the House on the 28th of July. On the 27th of July I laid on the table of the House the report of the conference, and it was shown in the report that, on the 20th of June, which was the last day of the conference, Mr. Harcourt made this declaration:

Then there is the report of the Committee of the Imperial conference convened to discuss defence, military matters, at the War Office. That is before the conference now in a paper. Assuming that that report is approved, it is proposed that the précis of to-day and the proceedings of the conference when published should contain the following statement on the matter: 'The conference received and approved the report of the Committee on Military Defence, which had held two sittings at the War Office, under the chairmanships of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff'—and the report will be included in the papers of the conference.

The committee had sat on the 17th of June. I was not a member of it, but I knew the tenor of the report. It was not ready for the conference on the 20th of June, but we approved of it, knowing the contents. Then, Mr. Pearce, Minister of Defence for Australia, made this statement:

Mr. Pearce here referred to the question of conferences which were taking place at the Admiralty with the representatives of the Dominion of Canada and of the Commonwealth of Australia with regard to the status of the dominions' naval forces and their co-operation with the Royal navy, and it was agreed, on the suggestion of Mr. Harcourt, that a memorandum embodying the conclusions reached should be incorporated among the papers published in connection with the Imperial conference.

On the 27th of July, I brought down the report of the conference. I was at that time in consultation with the War Office to obtain permission to bring down the other two papers regarding military and naval defence, which were not included in the report, and on the 28th of July I made this statement to the House:

In laying upon the table of the House yesterday the report of the Imperial conference, I stated that the rules or regulations adopted by the Committee of Defence, which were to be put in the volume, had not yet been printed, but had been received by His Excellency to be laid on the table of the House, and are upon the tables of the different parliaments interested. Yesterday we made a strong representation to the Home Office that these papers should be brought down at once to the attention of the Canadian Parliament and the Canadian people. His Excellency the Governor General re-

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ceived the following communication from the Colonial Office:

Mr. Harcourt to Lord Grey.

London 27th July, 1911.

My telegram of to-day—on further consideration, in view of your telegram of 26th July 'Confidential,' and of 27th July 'most urgent,'—I am prepared to acquiesce in immediate publication of both papers in Canada and I have informed Fisher that in deference to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's wishes I have felt it right to do so. Papers will be published here on Monday.

Harcourt.

Mr. BORDEN: At what page of 'Hansard' will that be found?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: At page 10468 of 'Hansard,' 1911. On that same day I laid on the table of the House the report of the Committee on Imperial Defence convened to discuss matters in the War Office and also the other papers in regard to naval defence. I moved that they be printed, and they have been in this blue-book ever since. My right hon. friend was altogether misinformed when he made that statement. I saw it again and again in the Conservative papers, and did not pay any attention to it; but when it came from the Prime Minister, I thought it my duty to correct the false impression which had been created.

Mr. BORDEN: I was alluding to the statement in regard to the establishment of a defence committee in Canada. I will look at the documents to which my right hon. friend has directed my attention, and, if there is any correction to be made, I shall be most happy to make it.

MARTIN LANIGAN DISMISSAL.

Mr. EMMERSON: This being Monday, formerly private members' day, it would seem to me to be an opportune time to take up that oft-repeated question of the return of the papers relating to the dismissal of Martin Lanigan, postmaster at Rexton, in Kent county, New Brunswick. The order appears in public bills and orders, No. 29. I observe that the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Robidoux) is here. The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Pelletier) is also here, and as these somewhat unusual circumstances now synchronise, perhaps my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Mr. Borden) will permit the motion to go through. I simply want to get the return of the papers, and I would like to have this order resurrected. It has been impounded for some time in public bills and orders, and, perhaps if we had the papers, they might throw a little light on the subject.

Mr. ROBIDOUX: I have no objection whatever to the adoption of the motion, provided that I am afforded an opportunity of offering a few observations in reply