

that subject would be brought down. Well, Sir, I am surprised that in dealing with such an important question the Government did not keep any record of the transactions that took place—that, on a question of such vital importance, the negotiations were merely and chiefly verbal. It must be that the Government did not wish to commit themselves or to make known what their attitude was in the premises, when no record was kept of what had taken place. Surely somebody was appointed to negotiate with the Manitoba Government; that somebody must have had instructions; that somebody must have had negotiations, and those negotiations must have been recorded in some way or other. A report must have been made to His Excellency the Governor General in Council of what had taken place, and that report should have been the basis of the acceptance or non-acceptance of whatever settlement was arrived at. But we are told that everything was verbal, that there was no record, and that there is nothing to be communicated to the House. To-day, Sir, we had another instance of the hesitation of the Government to put this House in possession of all the facts in connection with the school question, when, in answer to a question of an hon. member, the hon. the Premier stated that the policy of the Government was well known on that subject, and that it was not necessary to say anything further about it. Well, Sir, I must say once more that I am altogether surprised at the manner in which this matter has been conducted, and more so at the manner in which the Government is treating this House in keeping back all the information which the Government should possess and which the members of this House are entitled to receive. Much more is this the case when we have had from one member of the Government this advice thrown at the minority of Manitoba. When speaking on this very question on another occasion, the hon. Solicitor General said:

Now, I think, so far as the Roman Catholic minority—

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member must not quote from a previous debate.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I did not say that I was quoting from a previous debate.

Mr. SPEAKER. I leave it to the hon. gentleman's honour whether or not he is quoting from a previous debate; but if it is a previous debate, he cannot refer to it.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Well, if the Government is afraid that I should refer to a former occasion—

Mr. SPEAKER. Order. I cannot allow the hon. member to question the ruling of the Chair on a point of order. I am sure

Mr. LaRIVIERE.

the hon. member will regret having said that my ruling is influenced by a question of whether the Government is afraid or is not afraid.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I did not understand the hon. gentleman to say anything of the kind.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I heard "Order" from the Government benches, Mr. Speaker, and it was to that I referred. I made no reflection at all upon your ruling. Well, Sir, if we are told to-day that the Manitoba school question is not finally settled, that we have only received an instalment, how can we know whether or not the Government has made due efforts to secure the best possible settlement. Well, Sir, I shall not dilate further on this subject, because I am forbidden by the rules of the House to refer to a previous debate, and as this is not the last occasion upon which we may have the pleasure of discussing this subject, I shall reserve any further remarks until the question comes up again.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). There is no objection whatever to this motion being carried and the papers brought down. Quite the reverse. The Government is just as solicitous as my hon. friend that all the light possible shall be thrown on this subject. We did not wait until this motion carried to have these papers prepared. They are being prepared at this moment, and will be laid on the Table at an early day.

Motion agreed to.

DUTY ON REFINED PETROLEUM.

Mr. MOORE moved:

That in the opinion of this House it is in the best interests of the farming and labouring classes, and the country generally, that the duty on refined petroleum for illuminating purposes be reduced to three cents per Imperial gallon.

He said: In rising to press the motion which I lay before you, Mr. Speaker, I realize that the sentiments to which I am about to give expression will be met by objections from hon. gentlemen on both sides. Notwithstanding this, I cannot refrain from doing what I deem to be my duty to my constituents and a large majority of the people of this country. In the first place, I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not make this motion with the view of perplexing or in any way embarrassing the Government or any members of this House, or of doing injury to any of the important industries of this country, especially that industry which claims that its existence depends on the maintenance of the present high tariff. I make this motion solely and purely for the purpose of discharging a duty which I owe my constituents and the public, and which I owe to the labourers, the farmers, and the poorer classes of the