PARTICIPATION OF JUDGES IN BUSINESS.

Mr. SPROULE—by Mr. Taylor—asked :

1. Has the attention of the government been directed to the statements in the public press that the statutory provisions prohibiing judges from acting as directors, or otherwise engaging in outside business, are being disregarded ?
2. Has the government taken any steps to ascertain whether such statements are correct?
3. What opinion has the government on the subject ?

Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice) :

1. Yes.
2. No particular complaints have been addressed to the department against any judge, but the government has under consideration the expediency of introducing further legislation to provide a sanction for section 7, 4 and 5 E. VII, chapter 31.
3. The government is of the opinion that the judges ought to obey the Act of parliament. I have no authority under the rules of the House to have an opinion, on a subject of that sort, but if I had an opinion it would be that the judges ought to conform to the law.

EMBARGO ON CANADIAN CATTLE.

Mr. SPROULE—by Mr. Taylor—asked :

1. Have any representations been made since January 1, 1906, to Imperial government, asking for the repeal of the embargo on Canadian cattle exported to Great Britain ?
2. If so, what is the nature of such representations ?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). No representations have been made.

THE SALE OF PATENT MEDICINES.

Mr. SPROULE—by Mr. Taylor—asked:

1. Has the government taken into consideration the question of preventing or controlling by legislative enactment, advertisement and sale of patent medicines containing dangerous or harmful drugs or ingredients ?
2. Does the government intend to deal with the question ?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). It is under consideration.

DISMISSAL OF DETECTIVE SKEFFINGTON.

Mr. DANIEL asked :

1. Has detective Skeffington been dismissed from the service of the government ?
2. What was the cause of his dismissal ?
3. Was an inquiry held, and had he an opportunity of making his defence ?
4. Shortly before his dismissal did he make any report as to irregularities or malfeasance by any employee of the government on the Intercolonial Railway ?
5. What was the nature of such report ?
6. Has the government taken any, and if so, what, action on his report ?

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals):

Mr. OLIVER.

1. Yes, his services were dispensed with.
2. His duties were not performed in a satisfactory manner, and a change was considered necessary for the benefit of the service.
3. An inquiry was not considered necessary.
4. Yes, he brought some charges against some of the officials in connection with appropriating government postage stamps.
5. Yes, the government took action by sending down to Moncton the assistant law clerk of the department to hold an investigation into the charges. The information disclosed by his report showed that the existing practice was of such a nature as to render it practically impossible to keep a proper check on the use of stamps, and the result was that the system was entirely reorganized. There were no doubt irregularities; but they could not be brought home to any of the officials.

THE DEFENCE OF ESQUIMALT.

MR. SAM. HUGHES—by Mr. Taylor—asked :

1. Has the government taken over the defence of Esquimalt ?
2. What permanent force is in the Canadian service at that place ?
3. How many officers, non-commissioned officers and men compose the force ?
4. Of these, how many have been taken over from the Imperial garrison, how many from the Canadian permanent force, and how many recruited ?
5. What will be the annual cost of maintaining this garrison ?
6. Is it proposed to increase or diminish the force ?
7. What sum if any does the government propose to spend in armament at Esquimalt in the immediate future ?

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (for Minister of Militia and Defence):

1. Not yet, Canada is, however, paying the full cost of maintenance during current year.
2, 3, 4. None.
5. About $100,000 per annum.
6. Not at present.
7. No expenditure will be necessary.

THE DEFENCE OF HALIFAX.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES—by Mr. Taylor—asked :

1. Has the government taken over the defence of Halifax ?
2. What permanent force is in the Canadian service at that place ?
3. How many officers, non-commissioned officers and men compose the force ?
4. Of these, how many have been taken over from the Imperial garrison, how many from the Canadian permanent force, and how many recruited ?
5. What will be the annual cost of maintaining this garrison ?
6. Is it proposed to increase or diminish the force ?