

**Mr. MILLS** said he accepted the ruling of the Speaker, and would allow the motion to stand as a notice.

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#### PACIFIC RAILWAY

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** I wish to give notice that I will, on Tuesday next, ask the House to appoint a Special Committee of five, to be selected by the House, for the purpose of considering the subject mentioned in the motion of the hon. member for Shefford (Hon. Mr. Huntington) yesterday. (*Cheers from the Government benches.*) The Committee can be drawn by the House, and if need be it can have special power to sit during recess, and if need be by a Royal Commission for the purpose of given it additional powers.

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#### SOUTH RENFREW CASE

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** also begged leave to make a personal statement. The hon. member for Bruce South (Hon. Mr. Blake) stated before the Election Committee this morning that Mr. John Queally returning officer for South Renfrew at the last election, was appointed returning officer at the request of the sitting member, the Government having asked him to nominate the returning officer.

**Hon. Mr. ANGLIN:** No. He did not say that.

**Hon. Mr. BLAKE** said that as well as he recollected, what he stated was that he believed and believes that he could prove that the Ministerial candidate, the now sitting member for South Renfrew (Mr. O'Reilly) had been allowed to nominate the returning officer of that district.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** said that was the effect of the statement, and he would at once make a statement in reply. Not only was the statement erroneous, but Mr. Queally was selected to be the returning officer long before Mr. O'Reilly was thought of or spoken of as candidate in the Ministerial interests for Renfrew South. The way Mr. Queally's name came before the Government at all was through a Mr. Bonnifield, well known in the riding as the Eganville Squire—and who afterwards voted against Mr. O'Reilly—who mentioned his name to Hon. Sir Francis Hincks, and recommended him as a proper person for returning officer. Hon. Sir Francis Hincks gave his name to him (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald), and from that time he was selected as the returning officer for South Renfrew.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said that it was proper that he should confirm the statement of the leader of the Government.

**Hon. Mr. BLAKE** said he desired to say that if a Select Committee was granted, he believed he could establish the

statement he had made in the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and in the House.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** Let the hon. gentleman furnish his proof in open day before the House.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said it was utterly impossible that the hon. gentleman could produce such proof. He stated unhesitatingly that long before Mr. O'Reilly was spoken of as a candidate, Mr. Bonnifield recommended Queally to him, and he recommended him to the First Minister.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said the hon. gentleman had no right to say it was impossible for the hon. member for Bruce South (Hon. Mr. Blake) to prove his statement, because no man could say that. The hon. gentleman's evidence was no better than that of any other hon. gentleman, and the offensive manner in which he referred to his hon. friend was not to be endured. The leader of the Government had told his hon. friend to produce his proof before the House. Did the hon. gentleman wish to turn the House into a Committee or Enquiry, after having all the session taken the high ground against any such course? Let the Committee be granted, and then they would see if his hon. friend could not establish what he had stated.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** Mr. Speaker, the Committee will be granted.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said he could speak about a matter which was within his own personal knowledge, that Queally was appointed upon his recommendation, and he stated unhesitatingly that he recommended him, because he was recommended to him by Mr. Bonnifield. The time that took place was when he was in the village of Renfrew, before what the gentleman opposite called his perambulatory mission.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said it was quite possible that the statements of both hon. gentlemen were correct. It was quite possible that the recommendation of Mr. Bonnifield might have been the same as the recommendation of the sitting member. The hon. gentleman's statement might be true, and it might also be true that Mr. O'Reilly was informed that he could have the nomination of the returning officer, but the hon. member for Vancouver (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks) had convinced the Government of the very charge brought against them—that of nominating a returning officer in the interest of the Ministerial candidate. The nomination of returning officer in the interest of the candidate who happened to be the Minister, was still worse than had it been in the interest of an ordinary Ministerial candidate.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said he could not comprehend what his hon. friend meant. He (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks) was not a candidate for South Renfrew, nor was he spoken of as such candidate. It was long before the issue of the writ that the recommendation was made. It was certainly a most extraordinary thing that a gentleman who had always been known to be opposed