

which would remove from chapter 114, the provision to which I have already directed attention; and it seems to me that in order to get rid of that provision, we should require in the Act of 1893 something which we do not find there. It is true, I do find this provision:

No person shall be excused from answering any question on the ground that the answer may tend to incriminate him.

It might very well be said that that would only apply to investigations not controlled by a special statute. The Act of 1893 does not go so far as the provision contained in section 9 of chapter 10 of the Act introduced by Mr. Blake. That goes further than the Act of 1893, because it provides that no prosecution shall be brought against a witness in respect of any matter as to which he has answered a question. The Act of 1893 does not go that far, because it merely provides that his answer shall not be used in evidence against him, but leaves him still open for prosecution. It would be very desirable that in a commission of this kind, we should have the provisions contained in Mr. Blake's Act, which are wider than those contained in the Act of 1893.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would ask the hon. the Minister of Customs when I may expect the return with regard to applications for a new steamer, a revenue cutter, in British Columbia. The Minister of Marine brought down what was in his department and we are waiting for what is in the Customs Department. I would ask the right hon. leader of the government when we may expect the report on the labour troubles.

Mr. DAVIN. Might I mention that return about the tea.

The PRIME MINISTER. I will try and get it.

SALE OF CREAMERY PRODUCTS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). I wish to ask the hon. the Minister of Agriculture with regard to a matter of some importance, as to which I have some correspondence from the Kootenay district, British Columbia. The government have taken charge of a number of creameries in the North-west Territories, and their products were supposed to be sold to the general consuming public through various dealers. That was the system under the late government, but I am told that last year a change was made, in consequence of which the whole product is sold in the district to which I refer, to one firm, and I am told by my correspondent that that firm is making a much larger profit than the dealers think it ought to make. The dealers com-

plain that they applied to purchase the butter and were told on May 25, of this year, that they must apply to J. Y. Griffiths & Co., of Nelson, who, for the present, have the exclusive agency for the sale of this butter produced in the creameries under government supervision. They very properly object to that. They object to any combine supported by the government. They say they are willing to pay a fair ordinary price, but not an extravagant price for the purpose of enriching one special firm favoured by the government.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I have heard something about the question the hon. gentleman has brought up, but was not aware of the facts he has stated. I will inquire of Professor Robertson as soon as he returns from England, which I expect will be this week.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And I suppose that if the hon minister finds one firm selected and others excluded, in short a combine, he will not permit that system to continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I will see that no injustice is done.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Might I ask when we may expect the return respecting Dominion Creek?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Some of the papers are in the Yukon, but one or two are here and will be brought down to-morrow.

ELECTION ACT—AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 133), to consolidate and amend the law relating to the election of members to the House of Commons. He said: The object is merely to consolidate the law as it exists. The only two new features were those applicable to the North-west Territories representation and also with reference to the qualification of certain voters, that is to say, persons belonging to the militia and North-west Mounted Police, and the intention is to eliminate from the Bill all those clauses which have reference to the North-west Territories representation. Further, it is my intention to drop that portion of paragraph 7, which has reference to the disqualification of men in the permanent force and in the North-west Mounted Police.

Mr. MONTAGUE. This is a good day to withdraw that clause.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is always a good time to do what is right. As a consequence of what I have just said, clauses 24, 27, 29, 33, 65 and 78 will require a slight amendment, and also schedule 3, providing for the repeal of the North-west Territories Representation Act.