

the Transcontinental Commission have many expropriation cases throughout the country, and I warn my hon. friend he must make it a point as Minister of Justice to follow these cases lest the Crown and the country be mulcted. It is my candid opinion, my honest opinion, that the country has been mulcted in the present case, and to such an amount that my hon. friend should have been made aware of the agreement which took place between the respondents and His Majesty the King's solicitor after an appeal had been inscribed in the Supreme Court of Canada. This is one of many cases that will come before the courts, and I warn my hon. friend not to leave the cases entirely to the judgment of a young lawyer, able and honest as he may be, but to follow them very closely himself. There will be a series of cases.

Mr. MEIGHEN: If the hon. gentleman were acting as counsel in one of those cases, whose instructions would he take, those of the Minister of Justice or those of the Railway Commission?

Mr. LEMIEUX: I would certainly take the instructions of the Minister of Justice as being the one responsible to his country and His Majesty the King. When there is something wrong you cannot shift the responsibility from the Minister of Justice to the Railway Commission; the Railway Commission has sins enough to carry. I am surprised that a gentleman of the ability of my hon. friend should try to divide the responsibility when there is a bad case before the House.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Under what statute would the hon. gentleman justify his taking the instructions of the Minister of Justice?

Mr. LEMIEUX: If my hon. friend will read the British North America Act, he will see that the Attorney General for Canada, who is the Minister of Justice, is responsible for any case pending before the courts between His Majesty and any one of His Majesty's subjects. As I said a moment ago, I do not cast any suspicion on my hon. friend. If I have one thing to regret, it is that he did not look after this case. He has just informed the House that he had no knowledge of the withdrawal of the appeal. Knowing the hon. gentleman as I have known him for many years, and recognizing his sterling character, I feel that if he had had a knowledge of that appeal and the circumstances under which it was lodged in the Supreme Court, it would not have been dropped after the respondents and the

[Mr. Lemieux.]

appellant had made the agreement referred to. Once more I say that I shall await the papers, expressing the hope that nothing wrong will be found in that agreement which was made after the appeal was lodged.

Mr. SEVIGNY; Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind the hon. member that this is a substantive motion, and that the speech of the mover closes the debate. Perhaps I should have previously reminded hon. gentlemen that after the speech of the hon. member for Rouville there could be no further debate.

Mr. SEVIGNY: I wanted to speak after the right hon. leader of the Opposition had concluded, but the hon. member for Rouville stood up so quickly that I could not do so. I have only a few words to say.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. SPEAKER: My only desire is to carry out the rules of the House. It may be well for hon. members to say 'go on', now, but there may be other times when they will say the reverse. I am doing what I conceive to be my duty in the premises, and therefore I must rule that the debate be closed.

Mr. CARVELL: I do not think the hon. member for Rouville intended to close the debate by his last remarks. I think he was only answering an assertion made by the Minister of Justice.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Rouville moved a substantive motion and, according to the rule, after he speaks in answer to any observation addressed to the House on that motion, the debate is closed.

Motion agreed to.

RELEASE OF GEROLMIO FATSARI.

Mr. LEMIEUX moved:

For a copy of all papers and documents concerning the release of one Gerolmio Fatsari, who was sentenced for attempted murder in Montreal in March 1908.

He said: The circumstances connected with this matter bring to my mind some of the chapters in *Les Misérables* of Victor Hugo. This case has occupied the attention of the country since December 25 last. Gerolmio Fatsari is an Italian who arrived in Montreal from Naples about six years ago. Shortly after his arrival he was arrested, charged with attempted murder. His trial took place, and on the evidence of three men he was found guilty by the jury and