

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry that I cannot give any information to my hon. friend to-day on this subject. I thought I would have been able to do so, but I find that I have not the information at hand to-day.

BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON. Have the Government yet taken any action with regard to the petition of the Bell Telephone Company for advanced rates?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). No; no action has been taken.

THE COLONEL OF THE 8TH HUSSARS.

Mr. FOSTER. I asked the hon. Minister of Militia a few days ago for the papers in connection with some charges against the Colonel of the 8th Hussars, and he said he would be able to give me an answer later. Has he yet made up his mind?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). I think that as the matter is not yet disposed of it would be very undesirable to bring the papers down now. I may tell my hon. friend that the position is this. Charges were made against the colonel commanding the 8th Hussars by the senior major. They went before the General, and the General reported that they had better not be proceeded with, and advised the senior major to that effect. The senior major did not see fit to accept that advice, and the matter now comes under my notice. I have not had time to look into it, but as soon as the session is through, I shall take the matter up.

Mr. FOSTER. I am very glad to hear my hon. friend say that. I made the inquiry largely in the interests of all parties and of justice, I think. I happened to have seen a copy of the charges, and they are charges which I think no militia officer should lie under. I do not know what motivated the course of the General commandant, but I know that the charges have been made for a considerable length of time, and, if I mistake not, arrangements were made at one time for hearing them. There was delay, however, and afterwards the suggestion was made by the General that the matter should be allowed to pass over, but I submit to my hon. friend that a charge of that kind ought not, in the interests of the force or any officer of the force, be allowed to be passed over.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE.** Perhaps I ought to add that a certain limited investigation was made and that certain documents, some bank receipts, were asked for, and the General reported that, so far as he had gone, he thought the charges were not sustained and advised the senior major to withdraw them.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON.

I have only looked at the papers cursorily, but as I have said, the matter has now come before me officially and I shall look into it.

GALICIAN IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. DAVIN. I wish to call the attention of the Government—and I am sorry the Minister of the Interior is not in his place—to what seems a very serious matter respecting immigration to the North-west Territories. Attention is called to it in an article in the "North-wester," of 23rd May. The article is as follows:—

THE GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF SETTLERS.

The trick which has been played upon the last batch of Galician immigrants by the officials of the Immigration Department here was a disgraceful one, and cannot be too strongly reprobated. The Galicians may be undesirable as settlers, but if the Government will insist on bringing them into the country it should at least keep faith with them and treat them, not as brutes, but as human beings. A large number of the last consignment came here with the intention of joining their friends already settled here at Edmonton, Dauphin and Yorkton. The immigration officials has formed a scheme for locating a colony at Saskatoon. Upon their arrival here, those who had decided to locate near their friends in the Yorkton, Edmonton and Dauphin districts, declined to be shipped off at the whim of the commissioner to Saskatoon. Taking advantage of the ignorance of these people, the commissioner led them to believe that their luggage was being checked to the destinations they respectively desired, and by this means induced them to embark on the train which was to take them to Saskatoon. It is not surprising that, when, failing to arrive at their desired destination, these people discovered the trick played on them, they were violently indignant, and that the immigration agent in charge of them had to appeal to the North-west Mounted police to protect him. It is altogether likely that the Government will have to pay the expense of bringing these people back to the districts to which they originally intended to go. It is altogether likely, also, that the Government, owing to its delay in locating them, will now have to provide them with provisions, as it had to do in the case in previous shipments; for, although these were alleged by the Immigration Department to be a more wealthy class than any previously sent out, they only possessed on an average \$25 per head. But whether the people are ultimately located where they desired to go to, or whether, owing to their poverty, they are compelled to remain far from their friends in a district they dislike, they will not soon forget the dishonourable and high-handed manner in which they have been treated by the Canadian Government. This is, unfortunately, not the first instance of such conduct on the part of the immigration authorities. Last year, it will be remembered, similarly brutal treatment was employed to force settlers to comply with the whims of the Immigration Commissioner. On that occasion, they were locked in the cars and were brutally beaten back, and were otherwise maltreated when they attempted to escape. It will also be remembered what a pitiful tale of bad