

fore, to understand from this explanation that there was no communication addressed to me of that kind, no communication other than that which appeared in the newspaper which the hon. gentleman has referred to, and that the explanations, therefore, which were placed before me on the part of the learned judge himself, were placed before me on his own motion and instance, and not as the result of any communication from myself. The next question which is asked is whether the learned judge has tendered his resignation. The judge in question has tendered his resignation, and that resignation has been accepted. The circumstances under which it was accepted are these: The judge has reached the age of 74 years; he has been within a very few months of 15 years on the bench as judge in Equity of the Province of New Brunswick. The medical certificates which were laid before us are as strong as any that in my experience have ever been presented by a judge retired from the bench on the ground of incapacity for duty. Those certificates state that the judge, by advanced age and infirmity, had been deprived entirely of the sight of one eye, and therefore relied solely, in reading or writing, upon the other eye, which had been blind for a number of years before, but the sight of which had been eventually restored by medical treatment. Under these circumstances, and especially in consideration of his advanced age, I think we were justified in accepting his resignation.

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman has not stated, but perhaps he can say now, when the resignation was accepted, and when communicated to the judge.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. It was recently, I think, about two weeks ago, or ten days. I will ascertain the date.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Has it been communicated to the judge by letter?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I think so, though I cannot say positively, because my department is not the department that makes such communication. I will ascertain, and inform the House to-morrow.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I understand from the right hon. gentleman's statement that he did not call the judge's attention to the article, and ask him with regard to the matters therein set out.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. No.

THE COMMISSION ON THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Before you leave the Chair, I would like to inquire of the Government when the report of the Royal Commission on the question of prohibition, will be submitted to the House.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. It is not customary to lay reports on the Table until the Speech is considered. I hope the report will be ready for submission very soon afterwards.

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Mr. EDGAR. Before you leave the Chair, let me say that I think the First Minister will agree with me that the time has arrived for the consideration by Parliament of the copyright dispute between Canada and England. I do not want to discuss it until the papers are brought down showing the latest phase that it has assumed; and I would ask the Minister if he will lay before the House at the very earliest day, all the papers that are in the possession of the Government and that he can produce, since the last occasion on which returns were laid before the House, which was in 1891. I think on this question there should be no difference of opinion in this House, because I am sure that those who have sent us here will expect us all to maintain firmly what we consider to be the rights of self-government of Canada; and unless I am very much astray, an important right of self-government is involved in this decision.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I agree with what the hon. gentleman has said, and if he will move for the production of the papers I will endeavour to have them ready by the time the motion is carried.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 4.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 16th March, 1894.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S INSTRUCTIONS.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the Prime Minister to a paragraph in the Speech from the Throne in which His Excellency is designated the Viceroy and Queen's representative. I should like to ask the hon. gentleman whether any change has been made in the terms of the Governor's Commission, and if so, whether he is prepared to lay the document on the Table of the House? The hon. gentleman knows that the Governor is not a Viceroy, unless Her Ma-