

by permission of the Government or the Department of Justice ?

2. Did the said Mr. Justice Weatherbe, before his departure, apply to the Government or Department of Justice for leave of absence ?

3. If so, what is the date of the said application, and for what period did he apply for leave to be absent from duty ?

4. Was his application granted, and if so, to what date does it extend ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). In answer to the hon. gentleman I may say that leave was granted Mr. Justice Weatherbe by Order in Council of January 12th, 1898. The answer to the second question is : Yes. The answer to the third question is : Application, dated January 5th, 1898, asking for five months leave ; and to the fourth : Yes, to June 12th, 1898.

#### COLOURED EMPLOYEES ON THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to refer to a matter of very great importance to a great many people in this Dominion, and more particularly to myself and other members from the western part of Ontario, with reference to an article that appeared in the Chatham "Planet," the Conservative organ in the city of Chatham. This article is headed : "Have no use for them—Coloured men on the Intercolonial Railway all fired—Premier Laurier promised them fair-play and then they were dismissed—Examples of his preaching and performance." And it goes on to say :

The Liberal leaders at Ottawa seem to have completely lost their heads, and the latest move of Intercolonial management, while hard to explain, is only consistent with the action of men utterly unable to deal with the weighty matters of government which have temporarily devolved on them. It is the old story of Grit professions and practices being inconsistent with each other, for while Premier Laurier speaks in the most flattering manner of the African race, his officials strike them down in a most brutal way, no complaint, no investigation—just kick them out. What have Mr. Campbell, M.P., and Mr. McGregor, M.P., to say to this action ?

The article then goes on to quote an article supposed to have been printed in the Halifax "Herald" giving the names of porters on the Intercolonial Railway who, it alleges, were dismissed without warning.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would draw the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) to this—that if he proposes to do more than ask a question, it will be necessary for him to make a motion—

Mr. CAMPBELL. If I get out of order, Mr. Speaker, I will put myself in order, by making a motion.

Mr. SPEAKER. The point is very plain. If the hon. gentleman is going beyond asking a question, he must conclude with a motion.

Mr. ROCHE.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I will conclude with a motion. Immediately this article appeared, my attention and the attention of the members from Nova Scotia, was called to it. The hon. member from Halifax (Mr. Russell) immediately took the matter up, and he has handed me to-day a letter from Mr. L. B. Archibald, superintendent of the parlour car service on the Intercolonial Railway, and a good Conservative as well. I desire to read what Mr. Archibald says in reference to this matter. The letter is dated Halifax, March 30th, 1898 :

A great outcry has been made here lately by the "Herald" and "Mail" about the dismissal of coloured men from the service. Now for the facts. Now, as you are aware, our service is much larger in summer than in winter, and we drop the men as soon as we have no work for them. At the first of last month, when the dining cars were put on, we only had five sleeping car porters regularly employed, and they were running between Halifax and Montreal. Their names were : Joseph H. Berry, Thomas Arthurs, Jas. Daniels, Charles Dixon, Thos. Wilson (under suspension, and his place filled by R. L. Johnston). Owing to the buffets in the sleeping cars between Halifax and Montreal being discontinued, it was decided to run only one man on each sleeping car (the conductor). The parties affected by the change were provided for as follows :—Joseph H. Berry, given a position in dining car, in charge of the lunch counter, former salary \$35 per month and finding himself, now given \$20 per month and board ; Thos. Arthurs, same as above ; Jas. Daniels, same as above. These men did not lose a day's time. Charles Dixon was given a place in dining car as above, ran a few trips and resigned of his own account to better his position. Thos. A. Wilson, as stated above, was under suspension, and as it had been his third offence in a short time, no offer of service was made to him. R. L. Johnston, who was filling Wilson's place, was a temporary man and belonged to Toronto, his family living there. Thomas Johnston, the last coloured man taken on, on your recommendation, was given a place as assistant cook at \$25 per month and found. While on the sleeping car he had only been getting by our rules \$20 and finding himself. Another temporary employee, Charles Pinhero, was offered a similar position, and threw up the job on account of not being able physically for the work. He is employed as occasion requires at \$20 per month. I trust you will always give me a hearing when complaints are made.

Yours very truly,

L. B. ARCHIBALD.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that sufficiently answers the charge, the unfounded and unwarranted charge, that was made in the Halifax "Herald," and which has been copied widely by the Conservative papers of this Dominion. You will see by the facts that there is not one tittle of evidence for the statements made. They are made out of whole cloth, without any evidence at all. That is usually all the foundation there is for statements emanating from that source. I move that the House do now adjourn.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I wish to add one