

on the above date and was sent for by Madame Poitras, Mr. Dery's manageress in the dining room, that on reaching the dining room he found three or four English ladies who stated that they had come to buy six cups of tea and tendered a one dollar bill for the tea and also as a guarantee for the return of the cups. He says Madame Poitras refused to serve them telling them she did not want either them or their money and then ordered him to remove them which he refused to do, but finally asked them to go outside where he would try to do something for them. He found Rev. Mr. Williams, chairman of the committee of immigration workers, who took them back only to be refused again, which refusal was repeated before Mr. Doyle the immigration agent and Mr. Dery the caterer. The latter finally gave them the tea himself, taking \$1 for the tea and the cups and returning 70 cents when the cups were given back.

3. Sometime ago Mr. Dery agreed to give a cup of tea and a sandwich for 5 cents and sell bread for 18 cents. The Dominion immigration agent had large cards posted showing these prices; but on or about the 22nd inst. Mr. Dery removed these cards and refused to agree to the prices or to let the agent have any say in his conduct of the business. Mr. Dery told me that he removed Mr. Doyle's cards and returned to his former prices on the advice of Mr. Arthur Lachance, M.P., for Quebec Centre. Mr. Jean who worked for Mr. Dery as clerk in the store for one season from May 4 to October, 1903, stated that Mr. Dery's prices were always from 10 to 50 per cent higher than city prices. A one pound loaf of bread sold regularly for 5 cents, biscuits 10 cents a pound while the same sort were sold regularly for 5 cents and many other things in proportion.

4. Hot water has for years been supplied free to persons making tea in the building, but I heard numerous complaints that this is not now being done in all cases; although Mr. Dery pays no rent, license, taxes, light or heat, and has his fuel provided for him by the government, yet he refuses to procure appliances to provide hot water at all times.

5. That dock labourers and others not connected with the immigration work are at all times allowed to eat at the building rather than have to go to regular boarding houses kept for such persons. On yesterday, the 27th inst. there were eight of these dock labourers having dinner in the immigration building.

6. That Mr. Dery does not secure, for his dining room help, persons who speak English. I visited the dining room for dinner on the 26th instant, and my order had to be translated into French before I was supplied; with the exception of one lady the help employed cannot speak English enough to conduct any conversation whatever. Of the immigrants arriving, probably not 5 per cent can speak French.

7. I beg to inclose two signed statements handed me by Mr. Doyle regarding the treatment of some passengers of last year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) F. C. BLAIR.

A CONFERENCE.

The SPEAKER—A message has been received from the House of Commons in the following words:

Wednesday, May 4th, 1910. Resolved that a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint their Honours that this House has appointed the Hon. Messieurs Graham, Pugsley, and Taylor (Leeds), to act at a conference of both Houses on the Bill (No. 17) an Act to authorize the government of Canada to acquire by lease, lines of railway connected with the government railways.

According to the rules the House cannot remain in session while the conference is sitting, and I therefore declare the House adjourned during pleasure.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—We are to have the Tariff Bill and there is no chance of our getting through by three o'clock. I fancy there are some senators who will discuss that, and there are some other important measures to come before us. It is true during yesterday and the day before we managed to go, without any trouble at all, through some 15 or 20 Bills, really without some of the Bills being before us, and it is adopting a new system. There is no use in keeping the Senate in existence if we are to take the last moment, when the Governor General is at the door, to discuss questions which affect millions of dollars, and the Speaker asks my hon. friend from Stadacona to stop speaking now. If parliament is to prorogue at three o'clock, there is no opportunity to discuss the other measures which are to my mind of some importance. That the utterances of those opposed to them will have little effect on the Senate is no reason why they should not have an opportunity of giving their views on questions which materially affect the interests of this country. I do not know what power or authority the Speaker has to assume the responsibility of saying he will adjourn the House. If the hon. gentleman says there is no quorum that is a different matter. I may not be acquainted with the rules but the course he is pursuing now is something unprecedented to me, as far as my experience goes.

The SPEAKER—The practice is laid down that when a conference begins, and dur-