

I draw the attention of the First Minister again to this matter, more particularly as the young man herein referred to, up to the year 1890 resided in the county which I have the honour to represent, and his friends live there still and have been in communication with me, asking me if the Government would be likely to take any further action than they did a week ago when they kindly made inquiry as to what the result of the trial in Porto Rico was. I therefore ask the right hon. the First Minister if his attention has been drawn to this matter, and if he thinks it possible that the Imperial Government may be communicated with, with a view of inquiring into the matter as to whether the sentence of Mr. Halstead is not altogether too harsh, and whether steps would not be taken, perhaps, to secure the release of this young Canadian who has so unfortunately got into the toils of the Spaniards at this critical period?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry I cannot give my hon. friend (Mr. Henderson) any information to-day further than we had the other day. My colleague, the Minister of Marine, has the matter in hand and is attending to it. My hon. friend may be quite sure that the Government will neglect no opportunity of giving him every satisfaction with respect to these important matters.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE— GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

Sir CHARES TUPPER. Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I would like to draw the attention of the right hon. leader of the House to the fact that while he was good enough to inform us that it is not the intention of the Government to bring down any further measures this session, he did not refer to another matter, which has an important bearing on the adjournment, and that is the slaughter of the innocents. What measures now on the paper does the Government intend to drop or proceed with?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). We have no intention of dropping any other measures on the Order paper.

COTE ST. LUO RIFLE RANGE.

Mr. MONK. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I feel it my duty to call once more the attention of the hon. Minister of Militia to the state of affairs existing at the Cote St. Luc rifle range. Perhaps the best way in which I can inform the Minister of what has taken place is to read a communication I have just received from a number of farmers who live in the vicinity of the range. It is as follows:—

The people of Cote de Liesse, residing in the vicinity of the military ranges of Cote St. Luc, request me to call the attention of the Govern-

ment very earnestly to the manner in which they are treated by the military authorities conducting the military exercises at Cote St. Luc. The accident which happened last autumn, and an indemnity for which has not yet been paid, ought nevertheless to have been sufficient warning to the Government with regard to the exercises which are now going on in that place. Lt.-Col. Gordon and his confrère, Mr. Vidal, told us last year that they were surprised nobody had been killed on the Cote St. Liesse road, which is within range of the firing, and they were evidently right because last Saturday, the 21st May, the men who were working on Mr. Larose's farm—Mr. Larose is the man who was wounded last year, and is still unable to work—heard bullets whistling past their heads to such an extent that they had to give up work. They were about one arpent from the public road. What makes this more intolerable is the fact that the militia officers have warned the following farmers, Messrs. Mason, A. Groulx, B. Groulx, Jos. Larose (the victim of last year's practice), Art. St. Aubin, Hubert St. Aubin and others, that henceforth there will be exercises on the ranges twice a week—every Wednesday and Saturday, the whole day until 7 p.m.—and that during this time they will have to abstain going to their fields and have to keep their animals in their stables or otherwise the militia authorities will not be responsible for any accidents happening during these two days. This notice was given them in French and English, and they were told that this state of affairs would last until the fall. Now these farmers ask themselves what they ought to do. Can they remain in their fields during these two days or must they abstain from work during the two days mentioned in the notice? They desire to protest against this state of affairs, and wish their grievance to be brought to the notice of the Government.

I am sure that the hon. Minister is not aware of this state of affairs, and that when it is brought to his notice, as I deemed it my duty to do on the reception of this notice, he will see that such an intolerable state of things is put an end to at once.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I am very much obliged to the hon. gentleman indeed for calling my attention to this matter. He is quite right in saying that he is sure I was not aware of any notice of this kind having been given. I was certainly not in possession of any information except what I gave the other day. I would ask the hon. gentleman to be kind enough to send me that letter or a copy of it, and I promise to bring the matter before the officers of the department at once.

CROW'S NEST PASS RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON. I desire to ask the Government when the report of the commission appointed to inquire into the treatment of the workmen on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway will be brought down to the House?