

the House concerning a statement published in the press that Chief Justice Fitzpatrick has been appointed to represent Canada at the Hague Conference and that Newfoundland has consented to accept him as their representative at same conference?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am sorry to say that I cannot give to-day the official information to which my hon. friend is entitled. A treaty has recently been signed between Great Britain for Canada and Newfoundland and the United States concerning questions which have been pending for some time between the United States and Newfoundland. I cannot say that Chief Justice Fitzpatrick has been appointed a member of the Hague Tribunal, but I believe it would be satisfactory to all Canadians if such were the case.

Mr. SPROULE. If there are papers in connection with this matter, would the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) be willing to lay them on the table?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. At present we are in communication with the Colonial Office and the Foreign Office to have all the correspondence with regard to this treaty and to other treaties brought down, and I hope I shall be able to bring it down at an early day. I may say that if it were convenient to the House we could bring down two of these treaties soon.

ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES AT SOREL.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). I desire to ask if Mr. Ernest Roy, formerly sub-superintendent of the Sorel shipyards, and whose conduct in regard to his position between himself and the Crown in the Department of Marine and Fisheries has been inquired into by Commissioner Gaudet, is still in the employ of the department, and, if so, whether the minister proposes that a further and more thorough inquiry should be made into the allegations made against Mr. Roy, and if it is to be carried on by Mr. Commissioner Cassels?

Hon. L. P. BRODEUR (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). I do not think that Mr. Roy is permanently employed by the department. He was employed last year to superintend some work at Sorel, but I do not know whether his employment is permanent or not. I cannot tell, therefore, whether he is still working for the department. I will make further inquiry. As to the other question, I shall be glad when I give instructions to have the evidence copied and I will be very glad to lay it on the table.

Mr. BENNETT. Will the minister direct that a copy of the report in English be laid on the table? The report laid on the table yesterday was in French.

Mr. SPROULE.

Mr. BRODEUR. I may explain that the practice with regard to these reports is to bring them down from the department in the language in which they are, and it is for the House of Commons to have them translated if it wishes to do so.

Mr. BERGERON. Might I suggest that the translation should be made at the same time as the copy. The report covers 895 pages. It would take to the end of the session to get it copied. If the translation goes on at the same time, we may have the report before us before the session ends.

Mr. BRODEUR. It is not for the department, but for the House to see that it is translated. I will call the attention of the clerk to the matter.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT—AMENDMENT.

House resumed adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Aylesworth for the second reading of Bill (No. 115) to amend the Dominion Elections Act and the proposed amendment of Mr. W. J. Roche thereto.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) opposite, in the closing sentences of the address with which he opened the opposition's side of this debate, appealed to me personally against the provisions of the Bill now before the House which relate to the preparation of lists in the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the unorganized districts of Quebec and Ontario. He appealed to me, as I understood him, in the name of fairness, of natural justice, of broad equity against the Bill which he characterized as an intensely partisan measure.

Sir, to such an appeal it would be, I consider, my duty under all circumstances to give a respectful hearing, but I must say at once to my hon. friend that I hold myself entirely responsible for the Bill which is now before the House. We introduced it for what we considered to be good and sufficient reasons, and I rise at this moment to endeavour to show to the House and to my hon. friend what these reasons were; perhaps before I conclude I may also appeal to my hon. friend, in the name of fairness, in the name of natural justice and broad equity, against certain intensely partisan laws. I do not pretend, Mr. Speaker, that I am better than my fellow men, but I do not believe that I am worse. I am a plain man and deal with a plain question in a plain way. I have no hesitation in saying that I am a partisan, but, in all fairness to myself, I do not believe that I would willingly and consciously strike below the belt in order to take an unfair advantage of an opponent; yet, I repeat, I am a partisan, and I have sufficient experience of political life in this coun-