

desire to call the attention of the Minister of Justice to a statement he made just now that Dawson had been claimed by the United States government as part of their territory.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I did not say so.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—What did the hon. gentleman say?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I said it was claimed as a portion of the United States, not that the United States claimed it.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It has not been claimed by any other country, and, therefore, he must have referred to the United States. The hon. gentleman said that Major Walsh was sent there to maintain law and order.

Hon. Mr. ALMON—I rise to a question of order. The motion before the House is that the House adjourn. I should like to know if that motion is carried, would it be considered a vote of want of confidence?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I am quite willing to yield to the decision of the Speaker as to whether the point of order is well taken or not. If the hon. gentleman had studied parliamentary practice he would know that a motion to adjourn to enable a member to discuss any question he pleased. I would like to call attention to the absurdity of the position taken by the Minister of Justice. The mounted police were sent into that country to maintain law and order over three years ago, and duplicated, or perhaps quadrupled since that period as the population have flocked into that country. That they are entitled to all the credit that they claim in taking steps to maintain law and order in that country, I deny. Major Walsh is not there, so far as we know, and consequently he could have done very little in accomplishing the object for which he was sent. I do not desire to discuss that question at all. All I want to know is whether instructions were given to him and what they were. The Secretary of State laid down an extraordinary doctrine. He said, "you know," pointing to me—"that every member of the cabinet cannot know what is being done by each department." I admit that in all matters of detail there is a certain power an authority vested in each minister to administer the details of his department,

but in no case is an important question, like the one now under discussion, done departmentally without the knowledge and consent and instructions of the cabinet itself, after having met the approval of the Governor General; and yet the hon. gentlemen tell us it is impossible for him to know. It seems to me he is assuming for himself the position assumed by his colleague, who was not in the government at the time. This is a question that every minister should know, and it should have been discussed by Council—and I have no doubt was discussed by Council—before any decision was arrived at as to whether Major Walsh should be sent or not. If my hon. friend the Minister of Justice had said "I am not acquainted with these details," I could understand it, because he was not then a member of the administration. But the Secretary of State rises and proves to the House that he knows nothing at all of the principles on which our government is carried on. If he does not know will he kindly inquire and inform the House.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—This debate shows how improper it is to depart from the rules laid down. When important papers are asked for, the true way is to put a notice on the paper and members of the government have an opportunity of informing themselves whether those papers exist or not and whether they should be produced.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I asked whether any such papers existed. All the hon. gentleman had to say is yes or no.

The motion was withdrawn.

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT MEASURES IN THE SENATE.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. MILLS moved that the House adjourn.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I would like to call the attention of the hon. leader of the House to an assurance that he gave some two or three weeks ago across the floor of the House, in reply to a question of my hon. friend from Murray Harbour (Mr. Prowse), with regard to the introduction of some important government measures in this branch of parliament. From that time we have not heard anything further upon the matter. It