

statement as to whether money would be voted for the improvement of the park after the name was changed.

Mr. FIELDING. If there were any proposal of that character before the government, I think my hon. friend would be quite right to ask for information concerning it; but as we have never heard of anything of the sort, and as the whole matter is left in the hands of the Ottawa Improvement Commission, I do not think there is any need of the government making any suggestion concerning it. I can tell my hon. friend that the government have made no suggestion concerning it. The commission are free to deal with that as with all other matters. Except what I have seen in the press, I have never heard of it.

Mr. BLAIN. Considerable discussion took place upon it in the city council. They regarded it, I suppose, as important, otherwise it would never have been mentioned.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. Does my hon. friend understand that the report in the newspaper indicated that the alderman who made the suggestion did so in a jocular manner?

Mr. BLAIN. I did not so understand it.

Mr. BARKER. I do not think the matter was brought up in the council in a jocular manner. It seemed to be taken rather seriously by some people, and it does seem to me that the very fact that such a statement has been made should lead to some inquiry from the government as to whether there is anything in it or not. I take it that there would be some hesitation about making further contributions if it were seriously believed that such a thing could be done in Ottawa by this commission. I agree with the minister that it is not at all probable that such a thing occurred, but the fact that it has been asserted seems to me to call for some inquiry from the government if they are going to continue to make contributions.

Mr. FIELDING. All I can say is that I do not think it is the business of the government to concern itself very much with the names of these little plots of land around Ottawa, and we have not done so. The commission or the proper authorities call them by what names they see fit, and we have not interfered. I do not think it is a matter as to which we should take the initiative. If any one proposes anything objectionable, it will be time enough to do so; but I do not think that on a mere newspaper rumour of that kind the government should enter on any investigation.

Mr. BLAIN. I have the article in my hand now. It is contained in the Ottawa 'Citizen' of Friday last, June 30. It is headed: 'What's in a name? Is Dundonald Park a hoo-doo name? Startling charge: Alderman Plouffe, prominent Liberal, says

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it prevents park being improved.' The article says:

Has the fact of Dundonald Park being named after Lord Dundonald anything to do with the failure of the Improvement Commission to make the needed improvements?

That was the question brought up at a meeting yesterday of the board of works.

'I think we had better change the name of Dundonald Park to Somerset Park,' said Alderman Rosenthal, 'unless this is done, I don't believe the commission will ever do anything with the park.'

'That's right,' said Alderman Plouffe.

'I don't think that that is the reason why nothing has been done,' stated Alderman Davidson; 'if it is, however, I may state that the name won't be changed.'

'Then no improvements will be made,' asserted Alderman Plouffe.

Mr. FIELDING. I think I will leave these aldermen to settle it among themselves. They appear to know all about it.

Mr. BLAIN. As the government is contributing a large amount towards the improvement of Ottawa city to-day, to which I personally offer no objection, I think it should make a statement when an important matter of this kind is brought up in the city council, and the aldermen say that no money will be expended on this park while this name is perpetuated. The government should say that, in so far as they are concerned, they will continue the appropriation of the money notwithstanding the park is called the Dundonald park.

Mr. FIELDING. The government is not much concerned with regard to the names of any of the parks in the city. The commissioners have called them what they please, and I never inquired what the names were.

Mr. BARKER. The charge is that money which the government is contributing will not be used as it ought to be because of the particular name. It is very improper that money contributed by the government should be withheld from its particular purpose for such a reason.

Mr. FIELDING. I do not know that we would undertake to oblige the commissioners to spend the money at any particular point in Ottawa. That is one of the details we have left to the commission, and I see no reason why we should depart from that rule.

Bill reported, amendments read the first and second time, and agreed to, and Bill read the third time and passed.

#### THE BANK ACT—AMENDMENT.

Bill (No. 181) to amend the Bank Act—Mr. Fielding—read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.

Mr. FIELDING. This is designed to remove the limitation from the number of bank directors, which at present may not exceed ten. It was proposed to leave that