

Hon. Mr. FIELDING: Bonds and domestic issues, exempt from Dominion income tax, \$1,103,972,550; of New York issues, \$50,874,000.

In addition, \$160,000,000 of bonds issued and payable in New York are exempt from Dominion taxes except when beneficially owned by persons residing or ordinarily resident in Canada.

MINISTERS' AND OFFICIALS' TRAVELS

On the question of Mr. Stansell being called:

Mr. STANSELL:

1. What Ministers of the Crown have been absent from Canada since the close of last session?

2. What were the several tours taken by each Minister so absent, and what was the object of each trip?

3. What were the names of those who, at the public expense, accompanied each Minister, and what was the purpose?

4. What officials of the various departments have been out of Canada since the last session and for what purpose in each case?

5. What were the several tours taken by each official so absent, and what was the object of each trip?

6. What has been the cost to Canada of such trips by Ministers and officials, and those who accompanied them?

7. What has been the cost to the Dominion of the various trips made by Ministers and persons who accompanied them since the last session of Parliament: (a) within Canada; (b) out of Canada?

Mr. SPEAKER: I understood the question was dropped yesterday.

Mr. FIELDING: I said the hon. gentleman should convert it into a motion, when it would be more conveniently dealt with. I did not say "dropped."

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did not think the hon. minister said "dropped."

Mr. FIELDING: But that was my answer. We were not prepared to answer in that way, but if he would convert it into a motion we would deal with it.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Could it not stand as an order for return?

Mr. FIELDING: No, not in its present form.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We will leave it as it is.

Mr. FIELDING: I have given the answer of the government, and I would prefer if the hon. member would bring it forward as a motion, because we desire to give him information.

Mr. MEIGHEN: May I ask what is the matter with the question?

Mr. FIELDING: The question occupied some space and would call for possibly a good deal of information. At all events in the judg-

ment of the government it should not be dealt with in that form. We are perfectly content to bring the information down if he will move for it. There is nothing remarkable in that.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The only course the government has to pursue in that case is to have it stand as an order for return.

Mr. FIELDING: But suppose I do not want it to stand in that form.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What other alternative has the government?

Mr. FIELDING: I propose to move an amendment.

Mr. MEIGHEN: To the question?

Mr. FIELDING: No, I cannot do that, but I can move an amendment to the motion.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Then, there is no motion.

Mr. FIELDING: If there is no motion, only a question, I could not answer it.

Mr. MEIGHEN: If the hon. gentleman says he will not answer it—

Mr. FIELDING: I have given the answer. If it is converted into a motion it will then be considered.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Then it stands, as an order.

Mr. FIELDING: No, it does not stand as an order.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Why does it not? Has the hon. gentleman a right to strike a question off the order paper?

Mr. FIELDING: No, but I have a right to answer the question. The judgment of the government in that respect must be accepted. The hon. gentleman can proceed to move, but he cannot compel me to answer the question in any other form than that which seems to us to be proper.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the hon. Minister of Finance assert that he can stand up in the House and say "We will not answer the question", and then ask the clerk to record that as an answer?

Mr. FIELDING: I did not say I would not answer. I said I had answered.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. gentleman says "I will not answer", and then says, "I have answered".

Mr. FIELDING: No, I did not.