

which they might have to the adoption of these new rules. There is no necessity for my repeating the opinions which have so often been expressed here to-day as to the importance of the matter which has been brought to the attention of the House. Although the Prime Minister seemed to have been perhaps a little misinformed in regard to that, or perhaps misunderstood it, there has been no intention to decry Mr. Hays, the general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, who though an American, has undoubtedly shown great ability in connection with the management of the road. That, however, has nothing to do with the question as to whether the men who are employed under him and whose lives are at stake, as well as the lives of the public in their hands, should be consulted upon so important a question to them and to the public. The Minister (Mr. Blair) states that he is quite willing to see that the men are consulted when such an important matter as this concerning their interests is in the hands of the department, but the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) will see that the rules have now been adopted by the department, and the point which was taken by the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Sproule) was not answered, namely, the question as to whether the Minister now saw any means or any way of giving the trainmen or their representatives an opportunity of expressing their opinion, or of showing up what they believe to be deficiencies in the present rules. Nor did the Minister reply to the other point suggested by the hon. member for Hastings (Mr. Corby), who urged that greater time should be given for the men to become acquainted with the new rules. These are two points of importance and really they are the kernel of the discussion.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I prefer not making any definite statement on the subject, further than if it is possible to afford an opportunity for reopening the question, I shall be very pleased to do so.

Motion to adjourn negatived.

NOTICE OF MOTION—MR. HUGHES.

Mr. HUGHES. On page 7 of the Routine Proceedings of the House will be found a notice of motion of mine. My recollection is that on a previous occasion it was agreed with the consent of the First Minister that this motion should be dropped from the Order paper, but there appears to have been some misunderstanding about it. I would like to have the motion dropped as I want to speak on it when we go into Supply. If I cannot manage to get it out of the way, I will have to get around it.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am quite sure my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes) can manage to get around it and
Mr. MONTAGUE.

relying on his powers in that direction, I do not think it would be advisable to let the motion drop, because if we do it for one we will have to do it for others, and as we want to reach prorogation—

An hon. MEMBER. When?

The PRIME MINISTER. Whenever it pleases gentlemen on the other side of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. In order to hasten that desirable day I call the attention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) to the fact, that three months ago an order of the House was passed on my motion, for all the papers in connection with the winter service between St. John, Halifax and the old country, and the return has not been brought down yet.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I am almost certain the papers are prepared. I will inquire immediately.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I call the attention of the Minister of Militia to the fact that he promised to bring down the papers connected with the shipment of supplies and ammunition to the Yukon, via Seattle or over the Grand Trunk Railway.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA (Mr. Borden). I thought, perhaps, the information could be given in Supply.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The understanding was that the Minister would bring down the information before we discussed the item in Supply.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA. Very well.

THE CASE OF MR. FREEMAN HALSTEAD.

Mr. HENDERSON. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to draw the attention of the right hon. the First Minister to an article which appears in the Toronto "World" of yesterday, and also in a great many other newspapers. It has reference to a matter which I brought to the attention of the Government about ten days ago, and in regard to which the hon. Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) very kindly took action. The following is the article to which I refer:—

Halstead begins his Term.—Canadian Sentenced at Porto Rico.—Sent to the Penal Camp.

St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, May 23.—The British steamer "Aldborough," Captain Farrant, which arrived at Porto Rico on May 6, from Mothil, Scotland, reached this port from San Juan de Porto Rico yesterday morning. She reported that Mr. Freeman Halstead, Canadian, the newspaper correspondent for the New York "Herald," who has been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment for taking photographs of the fortifications of San Juan de Porto Rico, has been conveyed to a convict camp in order to undergo his sentence.