

Wild Talk from Lafortune.

Mr. D. A. Lafortune, of Montcalm, declared that Canada owed nothing to England, and it was England who must defend the finest colony of the Empire. He added: "Never will we spend one cent for the Laurier navy before consulting the people."

I declare that I never used that language. I repeated yesterday what the late Mr. F. D. Monk had declared in this House and outside of it. I repeat, I never used that language, but the very man who used that language was a member of this Government. That is what I said. If the reporter of the Journal-Press is here I suppose he will be gentleman enough to make the correction and to report what I said correctly, adding that it was Mr. Monk, the late minister in this very same Cabinet, who used that language, and not the member for Montcalm.

MINERS' STRIKE IN THE YUKON.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Edmonton): Some days ago, when I read to the House certain telegrams from parties in the Yukon the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) was good enough to say that he would make inquiries in regard to the matter and give the House the benefit of the information received at a later date. I would like to know if he has the information?

Mr. CROTHERS: The hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Thompson) received, yesterday, a message from the Administrator of the Yukon in these words:—

Am glad advise you that after repeated conferences between the Manager Yukon Gold Company, the striking employees and myself, an adjustment satisfactory both employer and employees has been reached and the men have practically all returned to work. The strikers were the four dollar per day men. They demanded an advance of one dollar but compromised for fifty cents.

Williams.

I forwarded to the Administrator of the Yukon a copy of the telegram which my hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) read to the House a few days ago, and asked him to let me have his answer to the allegations contained in that message. I have not yet received any reply from him, but I probably will this afternoon. I am expecting at any moment to get his reply.

SECOND READING.

SUPPLY BILL.

Bill No. 108, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public ser-
[Mr. Lafortune.]

vice ending 31st March, 1918.—Sir Thomas White—read the second time, considered in committee, read the third time and passed.

MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917.

CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE.

House again in committee on Bill No. 75, respecting Military Service.—Sir Robert Borden, Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Before taking up the first clause, I would like to have the permission of the committee to refer for a moment to some observations made by my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Militia (Sir Sam Hughes), in regard to slowing up on recruiting. My hon. friend, on the 19th June last, in the debate upon this measure, said this:—

The leader of the Government on more than one occasion—take the very day when Mr. McDougall was present, the leader of the Government asked me again if I could not let up on recruiting—

Sir SAM HUGHES: Is the right hon. gentleman referring to me?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Yes.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I have not heard one word yet. I would like to hear it.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I was referring to these observations of my hon. friend on the 19th June, 1917.

Sir Sam Hughes: The leader of the Government on more than one occasion—take the very day when Mr. McDougall was present, the leader of the Government asked me again if I could not let up on recruiting; and, moreover, the right hon. leader of the Government later on pointed out—if he wants the whole story I will be glad to give it—pointed out that there was a tremendous agitation in Toronto over the subject, that he had had various communications from Toronto, that the Finance Minister had told him there was a perfect storm brewing there, and that agitation was due to the fact that men could not be obtained as workers.

Further on, the hon. member for Pictou interposed as follows:

Mr. Macdonald: Speaking at Lindsay, Ontario, on April 28, regarding the conditions of which he spoke and the agitation, the hon. gentleman said:

"This unfortunately had an effect upon the Prime Minister. The result was that I was asked in March, 1916, not to press recruiting, and recruiting to-day has been dead in Canada for fighting purposes."

Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the statement made by him in Lindsay is quite correct?

Sir Sam Hughes: I am quite surprised at the hon. gentleman asking any such question. That speech is issued by myself, and I am not in the habit of issuing statements that I do not endorse. I will prove it before I have finished.