

refers to the withdrawal from the cabinet, is aside altogether from the issue. But the hon. gentleman has questioned me with regard to a pamphlet which has been issued purporting to be certain collations from the debates of this House on a former occasion or the question of separate schools. I was not aware until this moment that this pamphlet had been distributed, and I shall make inquiry and ascertain who is responsible for it. I do not mean any discourtesy to the House, on the contrary; the House is entitled to the amplest information, and that it shall have at all times, and I hope before this matter is settled. But many of the matters which have been introduced to-day are absolutely foreign to the question which I was forced to bring before the House, that is to say the resignation of my hon. friend from Brandon. The other questions will come up at a later date. Some remarks have been made, for instance, by the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) when he said that this Bill had been before the House for two sessions. That was evidently a slip of the tongue, and was easily answered. My hon. friend meant only to say that the question of autonomy had been discussed for two sessions. Everybody knows, especially the members who were in the old parliament, that for the last two sessions the question of autonomy for the Territories has been under discussion; I presume that is what my hon. friend had in his mind when he spoke on this Bill. But the only object I had in rising was to refer to a statement—not a statement but an insinuation, made, I think, by the hon. member for South York. The hon. gentleman insinuated that in bringing forward this measure there was an intention on my part in some way to get rid of the Minister of the Interior. I simply notice the statement to give it the most emphatic denial that I can. Whatever may be the differences of opinion between myself and my late colleague, I am sure he will acquit me of having had any idea of acting deceitfully towards him. I am sure that no one knows better than himself that it is with extreme regret that I have to lose his valuable services, and if I could have retained them I would have done so with great pleasure. When the hon. member for South York insinuates that I was conspiring in some way to get rid of my hon. friend from Brandon he makes an insinuation which is absolutely without the shadow of foundation.

Mr. SPROULE. We are entitled to some information showing why we cannot get more copies of the Bill.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend is very persistent in his question. I may say at once that this matter of printing is not in my department, it is in the hands of the Secretary of State. The hon. gentleman will not be surprised perhaps to learn

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that I have many things to attend to these days, but I will not forget the subject and will communicate directly with the Secretary of State.

Motion (Mr. W. F. Maclean) to adjourn, negatived.

INSPECTION AND SALE OF SEEDS.

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER (Minister of Agriculture) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 7) respecting the inspection and sale of seeds.

Mr. W. F. COCKSHUTT (Brantford) moved:

That the Bill be not now read the third time, but that the same be referred to a special committee to be named by the Prime Minister and that the said committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses on oath and such other powers as may be necessary.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in making this motion I desire to offer but a few remarks. We have taken exception to various clauses of the Bill from time to time as they have been before the House, and though some few minor amendments have been made, I think that the Bill has not received that attention it should have received. We have called the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) to various points in the Bill—

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman's motion is out of order. The rule appears to be that no amendment, not merely verbal, shall be made to any Bill on the third reading.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I am not making an amendment to the Bill. This is a motion asking that it shall be sent to a special committee, and that it shall not go to the third reading at all. I have consulted an authority on the point. I am quite willing to abide by the ruling of Mr. Speaker. This is an amendment moved that the Bill shall not go to the third reading now, but that it shall be referred to a special committee, not a committee of the House, but a special committee to be named by the right hon. First Minister. I shall wait until Mr. Speaker decides the point.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the first motion should be to discharge the order, and then to refer this to the committee.

Mr. WHITE. My hon. friend (Mr. Cockshutt) may move that the order be discharged for the third reading and that the Bill be referred to the special committee.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I will move:

That the order for the third reading of Bill (No. 7) be discharged, and that the same be referred to a special committee to be named by the Prime Minister and that said committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses on oath and such other powers as may be necessary.