

FORCED MARRIAGES.

White Men and Half-castes.

MR. HOLLOWAY'S ALLEGATION.

EMPHATICALLY DENIED.

CANBERRA, Thursday.

In the House of Representatives on June 29 Mr. Holloway (Fed. Lab.) made allegations that the Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory (Dr. Cook), to test an anthropological theory, was inducing white men to marry half-caste women, by giving those men preference who promised so to marry, and that white men could not secure employment unless they agreed to marry half-caste women.

The Minister for the Interior (Mr. Perkins) had inquiries made into the allegations, and to-day, in the House, he gave an emphatic denial to Mr. Holloway's statements, basing it on a report he received from the Administrator of the territory.

The Minister said that Dr. Cook had no power to make appointments, and consequently could not give preference in any kind of Government employment. Dr. Cook naturally had nothing to do with appointments by private persons or firms. It always had been contrary to policy to force half-caste women to marry anyone. Mr. Holloway had made his statement in all good faith, following tales told him by irresponsible persons in the Northern Territory. By adopting the course of making his statement in Parliament, he had cast a slur on the reputation of a conscientious, able, and loyal officer, who was unable to defend himself.

Mr. Holloway said he was glad to have the Minister's assurance, but he had brought the matter up in Parliament as the result of representations by people who were far from irresponsible.