

is this important difference in the matter of expense to the land owner that if instead of allowing him to proceed by petition of right, the Crown takes the initiative and lodges the information, exactly the same result is obtained, but the Crown is in the position of the actor or plaintiff, and the burden of the preliminary expense is taken off the shoulders of the land owner and assumed by the Crown. For that reason I have encouraged that course of procedure rather than by giving the land owners flats for petitions of right and in almost every instance—I know of no exception—that course has met with the approval of the land owners.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If I might be pardoned, I would like to say that I do not think these men should be subjected to the delay and inconvenience of having fine points of construction of statutes decided by the Supreme Court or any other court. Their lands have been taken, in this case they seem to have been taken three or four years ago, and a cheap and inexpensive method of ascertaining the amount of compensation to be given ought to have been provided in the first instance. If there is any doubt about their right to pursue such a course, that doubt should have been removed by statute long ago. I do not think that these men should be obliged to endure this long delay caused by the proposed appeal to the Supreme Court. They have been waiting three or four years now, and I do not think they should be saddled with one day's delay more than is absolutely necessary.

#### RECIPROCAL TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. BLAIN. Are the government willing to lay on the table from day to day the very large number of protests sent in with respect to the proposed reciprocity agreement. These are documents which should be in the possession of the House, and we had the promise of the right hon. the Prime Minister that they would be laid on the table from day to day. I have a copy of one with a very large number of signatures from operatives in the Hamilton cotton mills, and another from the pork packing industry, and I think there is also one from business men in Toronto.

Mr. FIELDING. These protests are not brought down from day to day, but at several times we have brought down papers called for. Every day something comes in, and not all on the one side. We have not only protests against the agreement but also the other side, but my hon. friend evidently does not desire to have these.

Mr. BLAIN. I did not draw any particular distinction. I was assuming that  
Sir ALLEN AYLESWORTH.

the bulk of the protests were against the proposition, but I would be very glad if the Finance Minister would lay all the documents on the table, as they would be all equally valuable. We ought to have a definite answer in this matter, and I would like to know whether or not the government propose to have these on the table from day to day.

Mr. FIELDING. I have not heard the proposition before, and, therefore, am not at liberty to answer it definitely.

Mr. BLAIN. A few days ago a similar request was made, and the right hon. the Prime Minister promised that he would bring these down from day to day.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I beg my hon. friend's pardon.

Mr. BLAIN. On February 14, following a request from the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) with respect to a delegation from the Vegetable and Fruit Growers' Association I asked would there be any objection to have the views of the pork packing industry delegation which interviewed the government submitted to the House so that we might have full knowledge of their statements, and the Prime Minister replied 'no objection, whatever.' Everything will be brought down.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That does not mean from day to day. I have brought in the proceedings of the pork packers delegation, and am laying it on the table, and intend following this by a report of the delegation of the fruit and vegetable growers. I shall do more, I shall have these printed.

Mr. BLAIN. Any on the other side

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved :

That the report of proceedings between the delegation of Fruit and Vegetable Growers and the Prime Minister and members of the government held in the House of Commons on the 10th February inst., be printed for the use of members, and that rule 74 be suspended in relation thereto. Also that memoranda presented by the Meat Packers of Ontario and Quebec be printed.

Motion agreed to.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

##### ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER delivered a message from the Governor General, which was read by Mr. Speaker, as follows :

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons the Fourth Joint Report of the Commissioners for the demarcation of the meridian of the 141st degree of west longi-