

Report of the Department of Inland Revenue for the year ending June 30, 1904: 1, excise; 2, weights and measures, gas and electric light.—Mr. Brodeur.

The Civil Service List of Canada.—Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. Before that motion is carried, I was going to ask my right hon. friend as to the state of these different reports. Probably the answer has already come down with reference to our mutual friend's report, although I think the Auditor General's Report has not yet appeared. Is it supposable that it will be ready in a short time?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The Auditor General's Report has not to be laid on the table immediately on the assembling of the House. He has fourteen days in which to lay his report before the House. I have not a great deal of information, but I can hardly hope that the report of the Auditor General will be laid down inside of that day.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose my right hon. friend is hardly able to say at what period the real Bill of the session will be ready for us.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes, I think I may say that the Bill will be presented at an early day, but I observed from the proceedings which have taken place in caucus recently that we are to have the leader of the opposition again with us, and I think it will be proper to wait until the new leader of the opposition is seated. It is an important measure.

Mr. FOSTER. I hope my right hon. friend will not abate any of his diligence in waiting for the new leader of the opposition. He will soon be here. I would not like my right hon. friend to have that excuse for delaying an important measure of that kind. What important business will be taken up to-morrow?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. To-morrow, on the motion for the adjournment, I propose to give my hon. friend from South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) the information he has sought for in regard to the filling of that vacancy on the commission.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that all?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes, that is all for to-morrow.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, January 17, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 5) respecting Census and Statistics.—Mr. Fisher.

INSPECTION AND SALE OF SEEDS.

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, That it is expedient to pass an Act respecting the inspection and sale of seeds of cereals, grasses, clovers, or forage plants, sold for the purpose of seeding, containing the seeds of certain weeds; establishing a standard of timothy, red clover, and alsike seeds, marked No. 1, or otherwise designated as being of first quality; providing for the examination of such seeds, and providing penalties for contraventions of the Act.

Mr. FOSTER. It would be well if the hon. gentleman would explain briefly what he proposes to do. That will at least give the appearance of some business being before the House.

Mr. FISHER. For the benefit of the new member opposite, I shall be happy to repeat the explanation which I gave in the former parliament. This bill has been called for by reason of certain information obtained as a result of a careful investigation into the business of selling seeds to our farmers. The intention is to control and regulate that business in the view of securing pure seed. This result cannot be obtained under the ordinary methods of trade, and therefore it is not possible for the purchaser at present to judge the quality of the seeds he is buying. It has therefore been found advisable to establish a standard and prevent the selling of any seeds which contain the seeds of certain varieties of weeds. Some years ago my attention as minister was drawn to the quality of the seeds sold and to the great admixture which they contain of the seeds of bad weeds. Owing to this admixture the growth of certain kinds of weeds was promoted in localities where formerly such weeds were unknown. I caused an investigation to be made, and was startled by the results. It was shown clearly that a large proportion of the seeds sold to the farmers of Canada did contain a considerable admixture of the seeds of noxious weeds; and in the majority of cases the farmer was not only not sowing what he thought he was, but was actually sowing the seeds of plants injurious to the crop he hoped to raise. The last parliament, in view of the facts disclosed, decided that some restriction or control should be exercised over the sale of seeds, and the prin-