

Mr. FIELDING. I did not say my hon. friend agreed to it.

Mr. FOSTER. No, but if the contract with the signatures and with the seal attached is in either of the committees that of course fills everything.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have just been informed by Mr. Scott, who, at my request, looked into the matter, that the contract with the signatures of the president and secretary of the company is in the hands of Committee on Public Accounts or the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN (Lunenburg). There is no question of the original contract being on the files. The hon. member for East Hastings (Mr. Northrup) in discussing the amendment of the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) the day before yesterday, referred to this original contract. It has been before the committee for the last week or two, at least an agreement purporting to be signed by the Minister of the Interior and the North Atlantic Trading Company under its seal and under the signature of its manager and secretary.

SAN FRANCISCO DISASTER—COMMUNICATION FROM BRITISH AMBASSADOR AT WASHINGTON.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the House I desire to present to the House before you proceed with government orders a communication touching the vote which the House in part made and which I am sure we are all happy to forward, that is the vote of \$100,000 as a contribution to the relief of the sufferers in the San Francisco disaster. Steps were taken after the matter had received the unanimous approval, as it did, of the House to communicate the desire of the Canadian government and parliament to contribute that sum by way of the friendly intervention of His Majesty's ambassador at Washington, the Right Hon. Sir Mortimer Durand. Sir Mortimer Durand has communicated with the United States government and I desire now to lay on the table a communication received by His Excellency from the British Ambassador, at Washington. It is as follows:

The United States government requests me to inform you to convey to the Canadian government the expression of their deepest gratitude and most profound appreciation of the magnificent contribution which the Canadian government have proffered for the relief of the distressed citizens of San Francisco. They feel sure the Canadian government will understand they appreciate their generous action none the less highly because of the conclusion they have reached that outside assistance will be unnecessary.

In consequence of that we do not feel free to proceed any further with this matter except, as the matter has been presented to

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the House, we shall, in due course, ask the House to approve of it and have it go into the ordinary Supply Bill, so that should circumstances arise to lead the United States government to change their view the money will still be available.

BRITISH CONSULAR AGENT IN CANADA.

Mr. A. E. KEMP (East Toronto). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called I wish to ask the government if they have any information in respect to the appointment in Canada by the Imperial government of a trade commissioner or consular agent for the purpose of inquiring into British trade in Canada. This commissioner, I understand, would report to the British Board of Trade, a department of the government of Great Britain. I would like to ask if the government have made any recommendation of an officer to fill such a position, to the British authorities?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. We have made no such recommendation and we have no such information either.

SUPPLY—NORTH ATLANTIC TRADING COMPANY.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply and the proposed motion of Mr. Foster in amendment thereto.

Mr. JOHN CRAWFORD (Portage La Prairie). Mr. Speaker, I do not know that I have any apology to make for rising to take part in this debate. 'Hansard' I think will convince you that I have occupied very little of the time of this House, in fact I may say that very many of the hon. members on this side of the House have taken but little of its time. However, Sir, I think the time has perhaps arrived when it is up to more of the members occupying seats behind the government benches to take an active part in the discussion that come before the House from time to time. I say this owing to the manner in which the debates are carried on in this House and the treatment that we on this side of the House are receiving from opposition members when a move in that direction is made. We have been treated to statements by opposition members from the opposition leader to the whip, the leaders of the party on that side of the House, that if we on this side do not behave ourselves we will be held here from one end of the year to the other. If that is the fact, that because we do not act in a manner to exactly suit the views of every hon. member on the other side we are to stay here from one end of the year to the other, I think it is time for hon. members on this side of the House to give the opposition to understand that we