

ways. The chairman has had to give up the chairmanship.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Who is the chairman?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Mr. Reford. He asked us to be relieved and we asked him to continue in office.

Mr. HAGGART. The reason I mentioned it was that I have a hazy recollection that the commission had reported favourably on the proposition.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. So far as I understand they have not.

Mr. HAGGART. I think I saw some report in the paper that they had favourably entertained the proposition.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am quite sure that the board did not.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I am quite sure that the right hon. gentleman will agree that if their final report is to be indefinitely postponed we should have in parliament their conclusions in respect of any matter upon which they have taken all the evidence they propose to take, and I would think that it would be well within the right of the administration to make that suggestion to these gentlemen because it will be absolutely nonsensical to have a number of recommendations from them at some future date in respect to matters with which parliament and the government have already dealt.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The object of the commission was chiefly in regard to water transportation and to terminals. I am in that respect of the same opinion as the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Haggart) that water transportation will have more to do with this through-traffic than railway transportation.

Mr. INGRAM. Before this is declared carried, I wish to complete the figures which I referred to before. I find at page 77 of the report, that the amount of aid granted to the Canada Atlantic Railway by governments up to the year ending June 30, 1904, was \$282,355.20, and then at page 81, 'statement of aid granted to railways by government' the Parry Sound Colonization, leased to Canada Atlantic, \$143,250; and Canada Atlantic, \$270,000. These are the figures which I wished to add. Again I say, Mr. Speaker, we want to know how these figures compare with the figures of two or three years ago when this road was offered for sale for \$12,000,000. We have had no opportunity of looking these figures up and the hon. gentlemen would not give them to us. It is only fair that we should have these figures, and what the road is supposed to be earning and its working expenses, so that in years to come if the government should want to get running rights over this road, we would be able

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

to look up the record and ascertain what the value of the road is at this time.

Bill reported.

On the question, when shall the Bill be read a third time?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Now.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I must say that we must have a different mode of doing business in the committee. I did not hear any question put on the Bill nor was any hon. gentleman given an opportunity of opposing its passage when the chairman left the chair.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The chairman declared the Bill carried; my hon. friend from Elgin wanted to add some figures but the Bill was declared carried.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did not hear the question put, I heard the right hon. gentleman say 'carried,' but I did not hear the chairman.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The chairman certainly put the question and declared it carried, when he was rising when the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram) asked to read certain figures.

Mr. INGRAM. I assume that the courtesy of the promoter would lead him to produce these figures and that the chairman would not leave the chair.

Mr. SPEAKER. Of course I can only deal with the report. The report from the chairman of the committee was that they had considered the Bill and ordered him to report it without amendment. When shall the Bill be read a third time?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Now.

Mr. INGRAM. Mr. Speaker, I am perfectly sincere in this matter; I think that the promoters ought to furnish the information I have asked.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

#### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER. The question is: When shall the Bill be read a third time?

Mr. INGRAM. When the committee rose at six o'clock, I understood the chairman was to resume at eight o'clock in order to allow of certain information to be given—I notice the Prime Minister shakes his head.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I stated at six o'clock that the chairman declared the motion carried, but before he reported to the Speaker he allowed my hon. friend to read some figures.

Mr. BARKER. It is quite true that what the right hon. gentleman said took place before six o'clock, but immediately before