

proceedings to-day. The judges in the first instance thought he could not interfere in the investigation; they said: there are Mr. G. H. Watson, K.C. and Mr. R. A. Grant, and these gentlemen will conduct the investigation, and if you have any information as to these frauds entrust it to Mr. Watson and Mr. Grant, and they will deal with the subject very satisfactorily. What charming and refreshing simplicity, to say the least. Later on, I believe, that counsel for Mr. McDermott was allowed to intervene but only in this way; he was not permitted to examine the witness in the ordinary way but the commissioners said to him: If you have any question to propound to a witness, propound it to us first and we in turn will propound it to the witness. Just imagine Mr. Hughes in New York conducting an investigation along this line.

I trust that the terms of the commission have been made so absolutely explicit that the investigation will not be handicapped by any such methods as those to which I have referred. The appointment of Mr. George F. Shepley is a good appointment; he is a very eminent counsel, a very able and honourable man. I have just one word to say about that; Mr. Shepley was appointed by this government in connection with the West Hastings ballot frauds and I have good reason to believe and I do believe that Mr. Shepley's initiative was very much handicapped by the instructions he received. He took very little initiative on that occasion. I am not saying that by way of criticism of Mr. Shepley because it is needless to say that he would carry out his instructions well, but it is desirable that his instructions with regard to this insurance investigation should be made public in order that we may know whether or not he has instructions to take the initiative and to make a very thorough and a very complete investigation, and a very able investigation too as he undoubtedly is competent to do. He is conducting the investigation as counsel and we ought to know that his instructions are such, that if that investigation is not carried out with the thoroughness and vigour which have characterized the investigations in the United States, the people of Canada will know whether to hold Mr. Shepley or the government responsible.

There are other matters in the speech upon which I might comment but better opportunities probably will occur later in the session, and I do not desire to detain the House. Sufficient it is to say that our wish is to aid the government in expediting business. The tariff has been eliminated from the matters which we are to consider. If the government will expedite the work by being ready, by being prompt, by bringing down their measures without any unnecessary delay, they will find us ready to second their efforts. Let them display business methods, let them not indulge in delay and procrastination, and they will find gentlemen on this side of the House disposed to as-

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

sist them in every way in bringing about an early completion of the public business of this session.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker. The House has listened with marked interest to the addresses which have been delivered by our two young colleagues who have placed in your hands the resolution now before us. It is at this moment my very great pleasure to offer them my congratulations and to welcome them to this House. Both my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Knowles) and my hon. friend from Antigonish (Mr. Chisholm) succeed gentlemen who during their parliamentary career won for themselves a large share of the esteem and respect of the members of this House. My hon. friend from West Assiniboia spoke warmly of his predecessor in the representation of that constituency. Those who have been associated with Mr. Walter Scott will agree that if my hon. friend (Mr. Knowles) did pay him a warm tribute of esteem, that tribute was fully justified. Mr. Scott impressed himself on this House by his ability, by his industry, by his courage, and by the devotion which he manifested upon all occasions to these western interests of which he was especially the representative. Indeed, such was his devotion to the interests of the west that he thought it due to himself to renounce the seat which he had in this House so that he might be able to give to the new province of Saskatchewan the whole of his ability, his energy, and his devotion. I am proud to say, notwithstanding the little slur which has been attempted by my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) that the people of Saskatchewan have responded nobly to the appeal of Mr. Scott. In this connection I would say that I am surprised—I say it deliberately—I am surprised at the attack the hon. the leader of the opposition thought fit to make on the lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan. My hon. friend (Mr. Borden) did not hesitate to say that for his part he had no doubt, nay more, that the whole of the people of Canada were satisfied that the lieutenant governor had been interfered with by this government, and perhaps by myself; and that unless there had been such interference he would have called Mr. Haultain and not Mr. Scott. I have only this to say to my hon. friend, that in throwing out that innuendo (it was not an accusation) against the lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, he simply gives evidence that he does not know at all the character of the lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan. If he knew that gentleman as I have known him for more than thirty years, ever since he and I, we being of the same age, were in the city of Montreal; he as law student and I as a young lawyer, the leader of the opposition would know that any attempt to interfere with Mr. Forget in the discharge of his duties would have been met with a strong rebuke, no matter whence that attempt to interfere