

friend, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Borden), thinks it would not be convenient to go on with supply, under these circumstances, and as I think there is a fair room for his criticism, I will not press the motion.

On motion of the Prime Minister, House adjourned at 3.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, February 18, 1901.

* The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Annual Report of the Department of Railways and Canals for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900.—Hon. A. G. Blair.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 5) to restrict the importation and employment of Aliens.—Mr. Clare.

QUESTIONS.

TIGNISH BREAKWATER.

Mr. HACKETT asked :

1. Were tenders invited during the year 1900 for building an extension to Tignish breakwater, Prince County, P.E.I.?
2. In what newspapers were the notices calling for tenders inserted, with dates of publication and length of time between insertion of notice and date when tenders were received and opened by department?
3. How many tenders were received, with names and addresses of parties tendering and amounts of their respective tenders?
4. Name and address of person to whom contract was awarded, and amount of same?
5. When is the work to be completed?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. I. Tarte) :

1. Yes.
2. Charlottetown Patriot, Charlottetown Guardian, Charlottetown Prince Edward Islander, Summerside Pioneer, Ottawa Free Press, Ottawa Le Temps, Bryson Ottawa Valley Advocate. Tenders called on June 29, to be opened on July 20, 1900.
3. One, J. H. Myrick & Co., of Tignish.
4. J. H. Myrick & Co. for \$4,255.75.
5. To be completed on or before October 31, 1901.

WINNIPEG LETTER CARRIERS.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked :

1. Has the following petition been received by the Hon. the Postmaster General :

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

To the Hon. Wm. Mulock,
H.M. Postmaster General.

We, the letter carriers of the city of Winnipeg, respectfully beg leave to request that the present scale of salaries now paid us be considered and revised.

That owing to the continued prosperity of the Dominion during the past six years, the cost of living has been very much increased and wages in all other branches of labour have advanced accordingly.

Also, the reduction in postage rates, together with the expanding trade of the country, has increased the work of our branch of the postal service.

We submit from experience that the increased cost of rents, clothing and provisions generally have absorbed all our earnings, thereby adding largely to the difficulty of maintaining ourselves and families with any degree of respectability.

We respectfully call your attention to the wide difference between the pay of letter carriers and that of other public employees of this city, while the duties performed by us are much more onerous and exacting, and make much greater demands upon our intelligence, honesty and physical endurance than that of civic employees generally.

We also submit that we are the only class of public servants debarred from participating in the growing time, and we therefore ask that 20 per cent be added to present salaries so as to enable us to live with some degree of domestic comfort.

Therefore, your petitioners pray that you may be pleased to take early steps towards the granting of this our reasonable request.

2. Is it the intention of the government to accede to the legitimate request of the petitioners?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Hon. Clifford Sifton). Yes, and is receiving the consideration of the department.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—OPINION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

Mr. BOURASSA asked :

1. Was the Canadian government or any of its members consulted by the British government on the South African question since the 1st of June last?
2. Did the Canadian government or any of its members offer any opinion or make any suggestion to the British government on the matter?

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The Canadian government was not consulted, nor was any of its members, by the British government on the South African question since June 1 last. No member of the Canadian government offered any opinion on the matter.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—THE BADEN-POWELL POLICE FORCE.

Mr. BOURASSA asked :

1. Is it true that some Canadian officers are engaged, or are going to be engaged, at recruiting men for the Baden-Powell police force?
2. Who are they?
3. Are they paid for that work by the Canadian government?
4. What is their pay or salary?