

trol of both shores of the American continent. Is this statement well founded?

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend is aware that I could not, without the consent of the Crown, give any information upon any such subject.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask my right hon. friend to obtain that information.

The PRIME MINISTER. I intend to apply for it immediately.

Mr. FOSTER. I would ask if the papers my hon. friend read are included in these that have been laid on the Table?

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, that is the Message I brought down a moment ago.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, February 6, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, certificate of the election and return of John McIntosh, Esq., for the electoral district of Sherbrooke.

### MEMBER INTRODUCED.

John McIntosh, Esq., member for the electoral district of Sherbrooke, by Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Pope.

### REPORT.

The report of the Auditor General for the year ending June 30, 1889—The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding.)

### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 4) to establish a Bankruptcy Court.—(Mr. Maclean.)

### FRANCHISE ACT.

Mc McINNES moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 5) to amend the Franchise Act, 1898. He said: The object of this amendment is to prevent China-

men and Japanese from voting at Dominion elections. Under the Franchise Act as it now stands, all naturalized Chinamen and Japanese are entitled to so vote. The amendment proposes an explicit prohibition against these people exercising the federal franchise.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask my right hon. friend if he is in a position to answer the question I put to him last night with regard to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not.

### THE LEINSTER REGIMENT.

Mr. McNEILL. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to ask for some information with reference to a matter of, as I think, great public urgency. I see by the papers that the Leinster Regiment, which is stationed at present at Halifax, has been ordered for service in South Africa. I should like to know from the government whether arrangements have been made to supply its place with a Canadian militia regiment, so as to obviate the necessity of any further drafts or drain being made upon the military resources of the mother country at the present moment. I may say, while referring to that, that I believe there is also an Imperial force of about a thousand men in Bermuda which could be utilized at the present time, if a Canadian regiment or a certain number of volunteers were sent there to take their place. I do not suppose that anything more effective could be done at the present moment to assist the mother country than to take steps of that kind. I shall be very much obliged if my right hon. friend could inform the House and country whether anything of that kind is in contemplation or has been done.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have to say to my hon. friend (Mr. McNeill) that, so far as I am personally concerned I have had no intimation of the regiment at Halifax having been ordered to the front. I shall have to inquire from my hon. friend the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) whether he has more information than I have. I am not in a position at present to give my hon. friend the information he desires.

Mr. McNEILL. I do not wish to trespass upon the rules of the House or to move a resolution, but I may just say to my right hon. friend that this is a matter which is mentioned in the public press, and