

way clear to make a statement in regard to it.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I thought, Mr. Speaker, that in the debate on the address I made it perfectly clear that the government of Canada had been consulted with regard to the terms of the treaty. I thought I had made it clear also that we had assented to the treaty, not because we found it perfect, but because on the whole the terms of reference were perfectly fair. There was no advantage on either side, and that was the reason why we removed all objections that we had had hitherto. For the first time, in the negotiations which took place between Great Britain and the United States and between Great Britain and Canada in the Joint High Commission; for the first time the terms of reference proposed were such as could be accepted by Canada. We were not satisfied with the composition of the tribunal—not that we objected to the tribunal itself, but simply because the tribunal was so composed as that it did not ensure finality. That was the only objection we had, but the terms of reference being satisfactory, the character of the court, with an exception being also satisfactory; especially in this that it provided that the questions between Canada and the United States should be determined by impartial jurists of repute. We thought we had there all guarantees that the case of Canada would be properly adjudicated upon. But in the debate on the Address, I said also that it was a different matter as to how the treaty, which in itself was perfectly fair, was to be executed. I pointed out that there were objections taken to the commissioners which we learned from the press and upon authority had been selected by the government of the United States. I am sorry to say that at this moment the government is not yet in a position to bring down the correspondence which has taken place upon this particular subject. It is all ready, and I am in hopes that at an early date it may be placed on the Table of the House. All I can say at present is, that if the correspondence is not already on the Table of the House it is not because of any fault of any authority on this side of the Atlantic. We hope, however, that very shortly, the whole of the correspondence which has taken place upon the making of the treaty itself, and the selection of the commissioners will be placed before parliament. We hope further, that all the correspondence which has taken place between the two governments since the adjournment of the High Commission, in 1899, will also be placed upon the Table of the House at an early date.

SUPPLY—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. W. S. Fielding) moved that the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to ask why the somewhat unusual practice of going into Supply on Private Members' day is being followed during this session?

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). For the reason that we have exhausted the Order paper for private business, and we have come to Government Orders. That is the only reason, and it seems to me it is a good reason. If we want to reach the blessing of a prorogation within any reasonable time, we might as well take government business for the rest of the day.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (East York). I would be ready to go on with my public Bills to-day if they had been printed in both languages. I have been here every day this week waiting to see them printed, but so far they are only printed in one language, and under the rules I cannot go on with them.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is no fault of mine.

Mr. MACLEAN. Yes, the government is responsible for the way the public documents are printed, and therefore the government is to blame.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). I have a Bill of ten lines long which was introduced last year and printed in both languages, and which I introduced at the beginning of the session this year, but it has not yet been translated. It is a most important Bill, and like my hon. friend (Mr. Maclean), I am ready to go on with it. Why is it not translated and printed in both languages?

The PRIME MINISTER. The printing may be to some extent in the hands of the government, but the translation is not. My hon. friend had better address himself to the officers of the House.

Mr. MONK. Surely the government is responsible for the conduct of the business of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER. There is a rule of the House that private Bills should be handed in eight days before the opening of the session. The work has to be done carefully, and as a matter of fact this rule of the House has not been complied with, as most of the Bills were not handed in at the prescribed time. We have only one translator, and when all the Bills come in together, there is necessarily a little delay.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). I have a Bill of four lines long that was introduced the second day of the session, and it seems strange that it should be kept back so long, because I am sure that the Bill to which I refer came in before the other private Bills.

Mr. MONK. May I ask if it is the case, as I have been informed, that there are