

at Centreville, and shall not cross the river St. John, but shall make connection with the Canadian Pacific railway tracks at Westfield. This would involve an entirely new arrangement with this Government. I wish to ask if such a new arrangement has been made, and whether the Dominion Government has agreed to operate the road as part of the Intercolonial on the changed conditions.

Mr. REID: This matter has been under discussion between myself and some of the ministers of the New Brunswick Government, but I have not yet got the matter completed and have not brought it before council as yet. Therefore I do not think I would be justified in making any statement to-day. Probably to-morrow I shall be in a position to make a statement.

#### COMMANDEERING OF WHEAT.

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: With reference to the report which was brought down to-day in answer to a motion made some time ago for the correspondence concerning the commandeering of wheat, I have just taken a cursory glance at the return and I have to observe that it is, on its face, absolutely incomplete. The first document brought down in point of date is an Order in Council bearing date December 18, 1915. The first paragraph of that Order in Council is in these words:

On a report of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, representing that the Government of Canada has been requested to take into account the supplies of wheat required by the British Government and certain of the Allied governments, and to arrange for a considerable supply to be shipped during the month of December and following months, the Minister of Trade and Commerce reports that it has become necessary and advisable, and within the meaning of section 6, of the War Measures Act, 1914, to appropriate and control the wheat hereinafter described under the conditions hereinafter mentioned:

This first paragraph recites that the action of the Government was taken at the instance of some party, presumably the British Government. This refers also to a memorandum, which has no date but which was made evidently later than the 3rd of March.

Early in the autumn of 1915, it became evident that Canada, in common with the United States and Australia, would have large surpluses of wheat for export, representations were made to the British Government with a view of interesting it and the Allied Governments in the purchase from Canada of a generous portion of the large quantities they would undoubtedly require. These representa-

[Mr. Carvell.]

tions were successful, and, on November 23, instructions were cabled to the Canadian Government by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to purchase a large quantity, delivery to begin in December and continue for the following months:

There is certainly no reason why the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies should not be brought down and they are certainly covered by the Order of the House. That is not all. The next paragraph of the Order in Council to which I have already alluded reads as follows:

The minister further reports that the action which he has taken for the above purpose is set forth in the telegram, copies of which are hereto appended, and that the instructions given in the messages signed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Minister of Railways and Canals, and the Solicitor General, were sent after consultation with him and at his request in pursuance of the proposed appropriation and control of the wheat aforesaid.

On the face of this Order in Council it is shown that certain telegrams issued by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and the Solicitor General, were appended to this Order in Council, and they certainly ought to be brought down. It is an oversight that they have not been brought down, I presume, but they should be before the House.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Instructions were given that these telegrams should be brought down. It is an oversight that they are not here.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: What about the instructions of the Colonial Office?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I will think that over. Those instructions involve a great deal of previous correspondence, and I will have to look into that pretty carefully. My object in preparing a memorandum of the case at first was to give to my right hon. friend, and to the House, all the essential information concerning the transaction. I think my right hon. friend will find that information to be pretty full. All the Orders in Council, on which the memorandum is based, have been brought down with the exception probably of the first one; but as the second Order in Council repealed the first, and substituted itself for it on account of some inaccuracies involving no principle, or anything of that kind, I did not think it worth while to include it. However, there is no objection to bringing it down, if my right hon. friend wishes. Meanwhile I will lay this on the table, and bring the other papers down later.