

visement. At the moment, there is no correspondence to be laid before the House, though there may be later on. With regard to the resignation of Mr. Lumsden, I will call the attention of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Graham) to the matter and probably an answer can be given to my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) to-morrow.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.50 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, November 12, 1909.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### REPORTS PRESENTED.

Report of the Department of Public Works for the year ending March 31, 1909.—Hon. Wm. Pugsley.

Report of the Department of Railways and Canals, report of the Board of Railway Commissioners, and report of the Transcontinental Railway Commission, for the same year.—Hon. Geo. P. Graham.

Report of the Postmaster General, and report of the Department of Trade and Commerce, for the same year.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Report of the Auditor General (vols. i and iii). Report of the Superintendent of Insurance, and the Public Accounts of Canada, for the same year.—Hon. W. S. Fielding.

Report of the Minister of Agriculture, and report of the Experimental Farms, for the same year.—Hon. Sydney Fisher.

Report of the Department of Inland Revenue. Report of Inspection of Weights and Measures, and report on Adulteration of Foods, for the same year.—Hon. Wm. Templeman.

Report of the Department of Customs for the same year.—Hon. Wm. Paterson.

Report of the Department of Justice, for the same year.—Hon. A. B. Aylesworth.

Report of the Department of Labour, for the same year.—Hon. Mackenzie King.

Report of the Department of the Interior, report of the Department of Indian Affairs, and report of the High Commissioner for Canada, for the same year.—Hon. Frank Oliver.

Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and report of Steamboat Inspection, for the same year.—Hon. Sydney Fisher (for Hon. L. P. Brodeur).

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

## ADJOURNMENT—JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN, Mr. Speaker, before the House adjourns, I would like to bring to the attention of the government and the House, a matter connected with the administration of justice in British Columbia, which I would have considered worthy of presenting to you, Mr. Speaker, as a matter of sufficient public importance to justify me in moving specially the adjournment of the House if this opportunity had not been afforded. I think we all admit and realize that the power of appointment to public office in this country, or in any country possessing representative institutions, is a trust to be exercised in the public interest, and in no wise for party interest or for party consideration. That principle, whether it is acted upon or not, is recognized in every country in the world which possesses a government and institutions analogous to those which we happily have in Canada. The legislature of British Columbia in 1907 passed an Act constituting a court of appeal for that province. I do not propose to refer to that statute at any length. The second section enacted as follows:—

There shall be and there is hereby constituted a provincial court, to be called the Court of Appeal, which shall consist of a chief justice, who, as long as the present Chief Justice of British Columbia continues to hold such office, shall be styled the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, and three other judges to be called justices of appeal.

Section 6 provided as follows:—

The Court of Appeal hereby constituted shall be a superior court of record, and, to the full extent of the power of the legislature of the province of British Columbia to confer jurisdiction, there shall be transferred to and vested in such court all jurisdiction and powers, civil and criminal, of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and the judges thereof, sitting as a full court, that were held and exercised prior to the passing of this Act and all other appellate jurisdiction and appellate powers, statutory and otherwise, and howsoever arising or conferred, that have heretofore been held or exercised by the Supreme Court sitting as a full court.

Then it went on to enumerate more particularly the jurisdiction to be vested in the court of appeal so constituted. Section 14 of the statute provided for the sittings of the court, and declared that it should hold four sittings in each year, and it gives the day on which each sitting should commence, the first sitting of the court being fixed for the first Tuesday in January, and so on throughout the year. This section also provided that, in addition to the above sittings, the court of appeal might hold special