

House of Commons Debates.

FIFTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, June 8, 1900.

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

PRAYERS.

RETURNS, &c.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair) moved :

That an order of the House do issue to the proper officer for a return showing what rails, rolling stock or other material, if any, have been sold or parted with by the Intercolonial Railway each year since the 1st day of July, 1896, to whom the same were sold or otherwise parted with, and whether the sale was made by public contract or tender.

Motion agreed to.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I beg to lay on the Table a return in accordance with the motion just passed.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). With the consent of the Prime Minister, I would like to move that the rules of the House be suspended, and that the return brought down last night by the acting Minister of the Interior, being a report of Mr. Ogilvie's, be printed forthwith. I want to call the attention of the acting minister to the fact that on the sheet for the receipts and disbursements, on page 83, the revenue and disbursements are not given. That table will have to be added to make it complete.

Motion agreed to.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I would like to make a statement across the House to the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) with reference to a complaint which he made yesterday or the day before regarding a return from the Marine Department.

I could not, at the time, of course, have reference to the return which he spoke of; but I was somewhat astonished, as I have taken very particular care that all the returns from my department were brought down promptly, and I thought I had a clean sheet. If I have not, I am prepared to supplement the return and give every information I can. But, I went, with the deputy, over the statement made by my hon. friend, and I asked him whether there was any information asked for between 1896 and 1897 which had not been given in the return. He told me that there was none, that there had been no dismissals for offensive partisanship on the report of any commission in that period. I asked him to make sure of it, and give me an official answer; and he has given me the following memorandum :

(Memorandum for Minister.)

In examining the 'Hansard' for Wednesday, the 6th June, I find that the Hon. Mr. Foster, in commenting upon returns furnished by this department in regard to dismissals from office, refers to a return furnished on the 17th June, 1897, which forms Sessional Paper No. 73a of the House of Commons, and states that no name is given in the return of any official dismissed. I find by reference to the return called for that the names of dismissed officials are not called for.

The return furnished, however, in 1899, No. 103, gives information in regard to dismissed officials, stating both the names and post office addresses.

In regard to the statement of Mr. Foster that there is an important hiatus from August, 1896, to April, 1897, in which no information has been given, I may observe that there were no dismissals during the period referred from office on account of political partisanship as a result of investigations held by commissioners.

I think it will be found that the return furnished in 1897 and that furnished in 1899, together with the return supplied during the present session, will give very full information in regard to the inquiries of the hon. gentleman.

(Sgd.) JOHN HARDIE.