

# House of Commons Debates

## FIRST SESSION—ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 6, 1909.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

#### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 123) respecting a certain Letter Patent of the American Barlock Company.—Mr. Macdonell.

Bill (No. 124) respecting the Hudson Bay and Western Railway Company.—Mr. Miller.

Bill (No. 125) respecting the Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway Company.—Mr. Miller.

Bill (No. 126) concernant le Chemin de fer de Colonisation de Joliette et du lac Manuan.—Mr. Dubeau.

#### BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister) moved that from and after this day, the 6th of April, to the end of the session, government Orders have precedence on Monday immediately after questions to be put by members.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose that does not cut out members' opportunity to get at private Bills?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Private Bills remain first order.

Motion agreed to.

#### THE LOGBERG PRINTING COMPANY.

Hon. CHAS. MURPHY (Secretary of State) presented the return to an order of the House, showing amount of money paid to the Logberg Printing Company. He said: This return is the one that should have been presented on March 26 last. The one then presented was styled 'supplementary.' The one now presented includes the amount of the return presented on March 26 last.

#### PRIVILEGE—PURCHASES IN MARINE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

Hon. L. P. BRODEUR (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). Before the orders of

the day are called, I wish to raise a question of privilege. The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), in speaking the other day, stated that the Prime Minister had allowed me to put my hand in the public chest and spend money for the purchase of one ladies' cloak, seven ladies' blouses and eight ladies' costumes. I was greatly surprised the other day when I heard my hon. friend the member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) use the following language in a speech which he was then making in the House. I will quote from this speech and I will put before the House the evidence which I have before me in order that we may ascertain whether the charge which has been made against me is well founded or not. The hon. member, as reported at page 4019 of 'Hansard,' spoke as follows:—

I want to ask the minister how much mud this expenditure took out of the ship channel? The money is charged to the ship channel. He will find these accounts in the Auditor General's Report at page O—163:

7 ladies blouses at \$13.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. I am surprised that the right hon. Prime Minister can laugh at that. He is the trustee of the people of this country, and yet he will allow one of his ministers to put his hand in the public chest and spend money like this.

1 ladies cloak . . . . . \$25

8 ladies costumes, each . . . . . 30

The total of these accounts is \$744.

\* \* \* \* \*

An hon. MEMBER. Who were the ladies?

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. I do not know.

Then he goes on at page 4020:

The Prime Minister laughed so hard that he did not hear what I read to-night, but I ask why we bought eight ladies costumes at \$30 each which are charged to the ship channel?

If I remember aright the hon. member was then quoting the list of seven ladies blouses, one ladies cloak and eight ladies costumes from the Auditor General's Report. There is an item in the Auditor General's Report amounting to \$744.50 and corresponding exactly with the amount which was mentioned by the hon. gentleman in his speech. The item is as follows: