

tend to lay it on the table when the address is passed. Meanwhile, if the hon. gentleman will send upstairs he will get a copy.

Mr. HENDERSON. I did apply and was refused.

Mr. PATERSON. I do not know what their rule may be, but I think the tables have been sent from the department.

RESIGNATION OF THE HON. C. S. HYMAN.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton, Ont.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called I would like to ask what is the effect of the resignation as a member of this House of the hon. the Minister of Public Works, which was referred to but not read yesterday? Is it or is it not in due legal form; has it the effect of rendering the seat of the hon. gentleman vacant? I would also like to ask whether or not the Hon. Mr. Hyman retains his portfolio?

Mr. SPEAKER. In my judgment the resignation is not in proper form and is not therefore complete.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have to inform my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) that Mr. Hyman has asked to be relieved as Minister of Public Works, but under the circumstances I have not thought it advisable to place his resignation in the hands of His Excellency yet. I have asked Mr. Hyman to reconsider his determination.

WRECKS OUTSIDE TORONTO HARBOUR.

Mr. A. C. MACDONELL (South Toronto). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called I wish to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries if he has seen in the newspapers an account of the appalling marine disaster that occurred quite recently just outside Toronto harbour, and which resulted in the wrecking of three vessels and the loss of at least six lives. That loss of life and property was due to the insufficient depth of water in the two entrances to the harbour and to the lack of life saving appliances. From time to time I myself in this House and others who have preceded me in the representation of Toronto have called the attention of the government to this matter. Now, in view of the lateness of the season and as the ports are still open on Lake Ontario and many vessels are yet plying on the lakes, I wish to know from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries whether he has given consideration to any measures which the government may take to prevent the repetition of such a disaster? If immediate steps are taken there will be no difficulty in providing against such a recurrence of such casualties during the remainder of the navigation season.

Mr. PATERSON.

Hon. L. P. BRODEUR (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). I do not think any report has reached the department in connection with the accident, and I have not had my attention called to the report in the newspapers. I am under the impression that there are proper life saving appliances on the island.

Mr. A. C. MACDONELL. No, no.

Mr. BRODEUR. I am quite sure there are life saving appliances on the island.

Mr. A. C. MACDONELL. There is a small life boat with a volunteer crew.

Mr. BRODEUR. A few days ago it was brought to my attention that the crew of the life saving station there had saved some lives. Perhaps my hon. friend is not aware of that; I think it was published in the papers. As to the depth of the water that matter does not appertain to my department and I am not able to give the hon. gentleman information as to it.

COAL FAMINE IN THE NORTHWEST.

Mr. R. S. LAKE (Qu'Appelle). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called I wish to direct the attention of the government to an item which appeared in the Ottawa 'Free Press' of yesterday. It is headed 'Coal Famine in Saskatchewan,' and it reads:

Montreal, November 22.—Hon. Walter Scott said to-day that the people of Saskatchewan are facing the question of freezing to death. 'There is not a ton of coal in the province,' he says, 'owing to the Lethbridge strike. Coal is used for private houses as well as factories and the misery will be great unless the strike is settled right away. We must get fuel no matter what it costs. Imagine, last week snow came and it will lie. We must have coal and will have to get it from Fernie, from the Canadian Pacific Railway, or wherever we can.'

I may supplement that by saying that a large proportion of the farming community of the Northwest is dependent upon a supply of coal for their fuel, and in my opinion the situation is extremely critical. A heavy snow storm has just visited that country and it has already created a most pressing demand for fuel. In the Regina 'Leader' if the 17th inst., the provincial Minister of Agriculture is reported as saying:

Not a point in the province but finds the supply far below the demand and many places are absolutely without fuel.

The Dominion parliament has seen fit to retain the ownership and control of the fuel supply of Saskatchewan and Alberta in their own hands, and in view of the responsibility thus imposed I trust the government will be able to assure this House that immediate and strenuous action will be taken to avert what might develop into a national calamity.