

of by the government and passed as soon as possible. If I have taken the liberty of introducing the Bill now, it is chiefly because of the absence of the Minister of Labour (Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux) who was principally charged with the administration of this proposed law. Having no understanding with him as to what would be done with this measure I thought it better to introduce it in order that it should be brought to the notice of the House and that members of the House should be given occasion to study the report which was prepared and which gives very valuable information in regard to the working of co-operation. I need hardly say that if the government adopts the unanimous suggestion of the committee and takes up the measure I shall be very glad to relinquish it to any of the ministers who is prepared to take charge of it.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

RAILWAY ACT—AMENDMENT.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 6) to amend the Railway Act. He said: This Bill was introduced by me last session. It deals with the subject of demurrage, providing a kind of reciprocity in that matter. The Bill proposes to enact a penalty against the company in the interests of the shipper if the company fails to provide cars when required. It provides a penalty against the shipper and in the interest of the company if the shipper fails to load the cars provided. It provides a penalty in the interest of the consignee and against the company if the company does not put cars on the siding as requested, and a reciprocal penalty against the shipper and in favour of the company if he does not unload the cars when so placed. Provision is made expressly reserving the right of every shipper and every railway company in respect of any damages one may claim against the other in regard to any losses outside of demurrage.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

Report of the Postmaster General for the year ending March 31, 1907.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Civil Service List of Canada, 1907.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

THE FRANCO-CANADIAN TRADE TREATY.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER (North Toronto). Before the orders of the day are called, may I ask the Minister of Finance (W. S. Fielding) if copies of the French treaty are being printed for distribution?

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). I was under the impression that they were already printed for distribution.

Mr. FOSTER. I mean for distribution outside—copies in addition to the usual two copies given to members. There are inquiries for copies from boards of trade and men in business life, and there seems to be no way of meeting these inquiries.

Mr. FIELDING. I cannot answer as to the number printed, but I agree with the view that there should be a liberal supply.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION—INQUIRY FOR DOCUMENTS.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton, Ont.) I would like to ask the government whether they will lay upon the table of the House the documents alluded to by the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Sydney Fisher) on his return from Japan in 1903? I refer to the statements in writing which he declared he had received from the government of Japan with regard to the limitation of immigration from that country to other countries.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). That will come up under notices of motion which are on the Order Paper.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Hall for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) in his opening remarks yesterday stated that the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in his speech had gone into a good deal of new and unexpected matter. I should be glad to return the compliment to my hon. friend (Mr. Foster), but I am afraid I cannot do so. I fear that we must recognize the fact that the speech he gave us yesterday, after all, contained very little that was new. It was a repetition of the old attacks, of the old sound and fury which we have heard so often in this House, attacks which have met their effective answer not only in this House, but from time to time in the verdict rendered upon them throughout the country.

Mr. FOSTER. Colchester, for instance.

Mr. FIELDING. We will have a word about Colchester before we close. I was reminded by the violence of my hon. friend's attack of a little incident in my own early modest political career. In the provincial legislature of which I was then a member, I had introduced a Bill which I regarded as of considerable importance, but it was one as to which several of my good friends seemed to entertain doubts. We were able