

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION.

Mr. JAMESON. When will the report of the International Fisheries Commission be laid on the table? I see by a despatch from Washington that President Taft has transmitted the report of Professor Starr Jordan to congress.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend refers to the commission about the international waters and lakes. This report ought to be laid before this parliament and congress. It has been laid on the table here.

SUPPLY.

House in Committee of Supply.

Mr. FIELDING. Before my hon. colleague the Minister of Railways proceeds with his estimates, I would ask the approval of the House to a proposal to grant the sum of \$50,000 from the treasury of Canada towards the fund organized in France for the relief of sufferers from the recent floods. We are glad to know, from the latest information, that the waters are receding and conditions improving. Nevertheless, the information available to us, both official and unofficial, shows that there has been very great distress and misery, and that there is much need of relief. Generous citizens of all nations are contributing, and in some instances governments have contributed. I am sure it will be the wish of this parliament and the people of Canada, irrespective of class, creed or nationality, that the Canadian people should show sympathy with the government and people of France in this trying moment. I propose that we should ask the French government to accept the sum of \$50,000 as a practical expression of our sympathy and desire to assist the suffering.

Mr. FOSTER. Could the minister give us an idea of the losses and the degree of distress being suffered?

Mr. FIELDING. It is difficult to obtain anything like an official estimate. We have to rely to some extent on the public press. We have communicated with our Paris agents to ascertain whether foreign contributions would be desirable and acceptable, and we are assured that such contributions will be gladly accepted by the French government. What we intend is that this amount should be forwarded to the French government through our Paris office and the British ambassador at Paris, who has kindly consented to communicate with the French authorities.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. This is a course which has been taken more than once where the people of foreign countries have suffered from great disaster, and it seems to me eminently fitting that a similar course

Mr. BLAIN.

should be followed in this case, more especially as the country to which this offering is made is the ancestral home of a very considerable part of our population. It is also appropriate for the further reason that the relations between the British empire and the French republic are at present of the most cordial and satisfactory character, as we believe they will continue to be in the future.

Mr. CROCKET. Would the minister state whether some other governments have contributed?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes, our Paris office informs us that the government of Turkey has contributed \$10,000 and New Zealand \$2,500. I think the United States government is contributing in a less formal way, and judging from the public press, through the Red Cross Society very large sums are being contributed by individual citizens of the United States and foreign countries. I notice that the German Emperor has sent his personal contribution of \$5,000, but at the moment of our latest information the only governments to contribute are Turkey and New Zealand.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Like the Minister of Finance, I believe in charity being the greatest virtue, but while I do not want to speak in any way against what he has brought before the House, I want to remind him that charity begins at home. I have brought to the attention of the government on various occasions cases in my own riding where, owing to floods, farmers have not been able to reap the benefit from their operations which they should reap. No attention whatever has been paid to that by the government, and I want to again impress on the government that we ought to take care of our own people whenever we have an opportunity. In saying this I do not want any one to misunderstand me or to think for a moment that I desire to do anything less than the Finance Minister in aiding these poor unfortunates in France. I believe, Sir, that charity, while a good thing, ought to be reciprocal at all times. We all remember of the disaster here in Hull and Ottawa in 1899, when so many of our French Canadians were left absolutely destitute on the streets as a result of that fire. At that time various nations of the world came to our aid. I shall give a summary of the cash subscriptions that were sent from various sources to aid the Hull sufferers. They were as follows:

Received from Canada.....	\$500,781 00
“ Great Britain.. ..	363,248 00
“ British Colonies.. ..	53,605 00
“ United States.. ..	33,505 00
“ France.. ..	1,036 00
“ Chili.. ..	4 86

I hope that the government will remember at this time the action of France at the