

doomsday without coming to an agreement. I admit that in 1898, the condition of things in the Yukon were rather chaotic. They could hardly be otherwise. There was a rush of population into the country; Major Walsh could not reach his destination in the winter, and many imputations were made upon his conduct for which I hold him absolutely blameless. Major Walsh was succeeded by Mr. Ogilvie, who, whatever be his demerits, is beyond doubt, an honest and painstaking man. Gradually things have been improving, and I do not know that in the summer of 1899, or this year, there have been any very serious complaints, if there have been complaints at all.

Mr. CLANCY. All the time.

The PRIME MINISTER. Not very serious. Of course, you will always hear complaints from a distant country; but, no serious and well-founded complaints have been made against the administration. Suppose there were. There may be faults of administration, little delinquencies of one kind or another; but, on the whole, I submit that the administration has been reasonably satisfactory. Taking in view the construction of houses and roads and everything else, and the fact that the whole thing had to be done at a great distance from all communications, I think that the Minister of the Interior has done better than he has been given credit for.

Mr. FOSTER. We will require to have a discussion on the Yukon, and my colleague from Pictou has a word or two to say on the administration of that district, and I also have my own views to express as regards the council, which I hope to bring before the attention of the right hon. gentleman in a day or two. In the meantime, I would like to have back the return he borrowed from me.

Mr. CLANCY. While there may have been a change in the administration of the Yukon, I must say that the complaints have not ceased. I have many letters in my possession that have no political aspect whatever—letters written by parties to their friends, which were never supposed to be seen by any other persons, and which disclose the fact that these people are under the impression that it would be much better for them to remain quiet than to air their grievances. I feel quite sure that the hon. gentleman can hardly enjoy that peace of mind and consolation on which he congratulates himself as to the perfection that may exist up there.

The PRIME MINISTER. Perfection does not exist anywhere.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I was asked the other night to ascertain how it happened that a vote for schools in unorganized districts in the North-west we were able, on an appropriation of

\$2,000 to spend more than that amount. I could not explain it at the moment, but I find, on inquiry, that several years ago a clause was inserted in the Supply Bill by which this item was treated in an exceptional manner, and the balances passed from one year to the other instead of lapsing. For the present year, we will follow that rule, but, for the future I do not see any reason why we should not follow the general rule.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.40 a.m. (Saturday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, June 11, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ELECTORAL FRAUDS—JUDICIAL INQUIRY.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). With reference to the promise made the other day to my hon. friend on his suggestion with regard to the commission of inquiry now issued, I told him that I would give him the opinion of the Minister of Justice upon the subject, as laying down the policy the government intends to follow. The House will be interested in being given communication of the grounds taken by the Minister of Justice upon the several propositions and suggestions made by the hon. leader of the opposition:

(Memorandum in Respect to the Proposed Commission.)

Office of the Minister of Justice,

Ottawa, June 11, 1900.

The undersigned learns from the speeches of the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Borden (Halifax) that they are of opinion that the scope of the commission under chapter 114 of the Revised Statutes of Canada and the amendments thereto, is not sufficiently broad to make the inquiry of the commission effective.

The undersigned is of opinion that this conclusion has been reached by overlooking the amendments made by 52 Victoria, chapter 33. The powers under this statute, as it now stands, enables the Governor in Council to appoint a commission to inquire into and concerning any matter connected with the good government of Canada, to confer upon the parties appointed to make the inquiry, by their commission, the power of summoning before them witnesses, and to require such witnesses to give evidence on oath, and to produce such documents and things as such commissioners deem requisite to full investigation of the matters into which they are appointed to examine.

Such commissioners are clothed with the same power to enforce attendance of witnesses, and