

(b) A copy of all orders in council altering, amending or cancelling any such regulations for the aforesaid purposes, and the said amended or other regulations.

(c) A copy of all orders in council approving, amending or cancelling regulations as regards the Yukon for the purposes aforesaid, and the said regulations and amended regulations.—Mr. Barker.

For a return showing: 1. How many fishery officers there are at present in Canada having jurisdiction as ex-officio justices of the peace to try offences against the fishery laws or regulations.

2. How many convictions were made during the last fiscal year for offences against fishery laws or regulations, and how many of said convictions were made before fishery officers acting as justices.

3. The gross amount collected in fines for offences against the fishery laws or regulations for each year during the past five years, and what part of same in each year was paid by foreigners.

4. How much of the penalties so collected was awarded to fishery officers under the provisions of section 101 of chapter 45, Revised Statutes of Canada.—Mr. Sinclair.

For a return showing who made the seizures under the Inland Revenue Department in the fiscal years 1906 and 1907, in Cornwall, London, Ottawa, St. Catharines, Toronto, Joliette and Montreal, and what the seizures consisted of; the name of the party or parties from whom the material was seized; the amount realized by the sale of such seized material; and how this seized material was disposed of.—Mr. Barr.

For the production of all the original applications and tenders filed in the Department of the Interior in respect of timber berths 1046, 1047, 1052, 1058, 1068, 1073, 1093, 1094, 1099, 1191, 1192, and that the same be laid upon the table of the House, said papers not to be part of the archives of this House, but to be returned by the clerk to the Department of the Interior after exhibition.—Mr. Ames.

For the production of all original tenders filed in the Department of the Interior in respect of timber limits Nos. 645, 646, 675, 703, 705, and 733 to 737, and that the same be laid upon the table of the House, said papers not to be part of the archives of this House, but to be returned by the clerk to the Department of the Interior after inspection.—Mr. McCraney.

For a return showing the total amounts spent from the first of December, 1904, to the first of February, 1908, on dredging works: (a) at or near the entrance of the Nicolet river; (b) at Port St. François; (c) at River Godfroi; (d) at the wharfs of Ste. Angele, Becanfor each year during the past five years, and court, Gentilly, and of St. Pierre-les-Becquets; how the dredging was done, whether by tender or otherwise, and through what newspapers tenders were called for; if the said work was executed by the lowest tenderer; the name of the dredging contractor in each case and the amount received by each contractor for the work done.—Mr. Monk.

For a return showing what changes have occurred in the House of Commons branches of the clerk of the House and the Sergeant-at-Arms service since July 1, 1907.—Mr. Owen.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

## THE BANK ACT.

Mr. R. A. PRINGLE (Stormont) moved:

That in the opinion of this House it is an opportune time to consider the advisability of amending and revising the Bank Act, and that the following, among other amendments, should receive consideration:

1. To provide for government inspection.
2. To provide more stringent regulations as to circulation.
3. To make provisions as to percentage of capital and reserve that may be loaned to any one borrower.
4. To make provision for percentage that a bank may loan to its combined directors.
5. To limit the amount of interest or discount that banks may contract for.
6. To revise the powers of the Bankers' Association.

He said: I am fully aware of the great importance of the subject of this motion. We have been passing through a great financial stringency, a stringency which has not been confined to this continent, but has to some extent been world-wide. There have been many causes leading up to this stringency, and I may mention that one of the causes, to my mind, which has operated in that direction is the enormous loss of money which has been sustained the world over. It has been estimated that there has been a loss of some five billions of money in consequence of the Boer war, the Russo-Japanese war, the Spanish-American war and the San Francisco disaster. That is money which has been absolutely wiped out. While our gold production during the past two or three years has probably been the largest in the history of the world, it has not been sufficient to make up for the enormous losses sustained through these causes. I apprehend that the proper cure for that will be retrenchment.

I was much pleased in reading a day or two ago a very able speech made by my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) in the city of London. He covered very fully the great advance that has been made during the last decade. In pointing out to his audience that we had made a remarkable expansion he gave certain figures. For instance, if I remember correctly, he said that ten years ago the total foreign trade, on the basis of imports for home consumption and domestic exports, amounted to some \$234,926,000. In 1907, on the same basis, our total imports for home consumption and domestic exports amounted to the very large sum of \$571,783,000. He also gave figures in regard to our population. He stated the population of 1901 at 5,370,000 and the increase by immigration at some 930,000. To that should be added the natural increase, which brings our population, I think, to-day up to about 6,600,000. But he did not tell his audience that the foreign trade balance had been running heavily against us during past years. He did not tell his audience that the excess of