

House of Commons Debates

THIRD SESSION—ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, March 23, 1911.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 145) for the relief of Paulina Verena Meyer.—Mr. Rankin.

Bill (No. 151) to incorporate The Canadian Surety Company.—Mr. McCraney.

QUESTIONS.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

EMPLOYMENT OF LATE MR. HECTOR FABRE.

*Mr. MONK:

1. On what date was the late Hector Fabre named commissioner of Canada in France?

2. What salary was paid to him during his occupancy of the office?

3. How many years did he act as commissioner for the Dominion government?

4. Is it the intention of the government to make some provision for the widow of the late Commissioner Fabre?

5. Will an item to this effect be placed in this year's estimates?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Mr. Fabre was appointed to his office in France about 1882.

2. At the time of his death he was paid in salary and other expenses by the Dominion government \$6,500 a year, and I believe that he also received \$2,000 from the Quebec government.

3. He acted from about 1882 until September, 1910.

4 and 5. It is the intention to give to Madame Fabre his widow the best treatment under the law.

CUSTOMS ENTRY STEAMSHIP 'WANDA.'

*Mr. SHARPE (Ontario):

1. Was the ship 'Wanda' offered for entry at Brockville or at any other Canadian port before the 18th day of August, 1909?

2. Was there any notice, verbal or written, from any Canadian customs port relative to the ship 'Wanda' prior to the 18th day of

August, 1909? If so, what was the effect of such notice?

3. Was the Minister of Customs consulted or interviewed by Mr. Calvert, ex-Liberal whip, or any member of the government or any officials, about the appraisement of the ship 'Wanda' or the passing of the entry thereof, before or after the receipt of Mr. Calvert's letter suggesting the valuation of the said ship should be only \$1,000 or so?

Mr. PATERSON:

1. The Department of Customs is not aware of any offer of entry for duty of the steamer 'Wanda,' except the entry upon which duty was paid at Brockville, September 9, 1909.

2. There was no notice from any customs port to the Department of Customs prior to August 18, 1909, relative to the entry for duty of the steamer 'Wanda.'

3. No.

PARCEL POST RATES.

Mr. ARMSTRONG:

Does the government intend to make a reduction in parcel post rates, or establish a new parcel post system? If so, what is the nature and extent of same?

Mr. LEMIEUX. The matter is now engaging the attention of the Post Office Department.

POSTMASTERS' SALARIES, ETC.

Mr. ARMSTRONG:

1. Is it the intention of the Postmaster General to grant any or all of the following requests? If not, why not:—

1. An increase in salary to meet sharp advance in cost of living. Present schedule provides less remuneration per 1,000 pieces handled than did that of 12 to 15 years ago.

2. An increase in the rent allowance, and the placing of it on the straight percentage basis.

3. Necessary supplies, such as twine, ink, pens, pencils, &c., to be furnished by the department.

4. That postmasters be given greater protection in the purchase of good equipment for offices.

5. That offices be classified, and a system of promotion, optional for a time, be established, with a view to promoting greater efficiency and permanency.

6. Better newspaper labelling, with a view to greater despatch and accuracy.