

session ; and it is therefore with great pleasure that I accede to the demand of my right hon. friend. With regard to the correspondence which has taken place attending the resignation of office by the late Administration, the hon. gentleman is aware that I cannot give him the answer at this moment, but I will do so to-morrow.

Motion, that the Speech from the Throne be taken into consideration on Monday, agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier) moved :

That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present session be appointed for the following purposes :—1. On Privileges and Elections ; 2. On Expiring Laws ; 3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines ; 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills ; 5. On Standing Orders ; 6. On Printing ; 7. On Public Accounts ; 8. On Banking and Commerce ; 9. On Immigration and Colonization ;—which said committees shall severally be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House ; and to report, from time to time, their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

The PRIME MINISTER moved :

That a Special Committee of five members be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees ordered by the House this day, and that Mr. Laurier, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Adolphe Caron and Mr. Davies do compose the said committee.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER laid before the House the Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament up to date.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). The Debates Committee was composed last Parliament of 15 members, 9 representing the Government and 6 the Opposition. The members whom I suggest now are Messrs. Beausoleil, Charlton, Somerville, Scriver, who were members of the committee last year, and Messrs. Haley, Monet, Richardson, Ellis and Choquette. On the Government side last Parliament were Messrs. La-Rivière, Taylor, Earle, Davin and Craig. This leaves a sixth one to be appointed to represent the Opposition, and I leave the choice to the suggestion of the hon. gentleman.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would ask the hon. gentleman whether he has taken
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into consideration the fact that the numbers 9 and 6, composing the committee last year, were no doubt arranged in view of the relative proportions of the two sides of the House, and I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he has considered the fact that the Opposition is now represented by a larger element than it was when those numbers on the committee were arranged.

The PRIME MINISTER. I have thought of all that, and the difference seems to me so minute that it is not proper to make a change. If the hon. member has a sixth member to suggest, I shall be happy to add his name.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would suggest the name of Mr. Bergeron.

The PRIME MINISTER moved :

That a Select Committee be appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of this House during the present session, with power to report from time to time ; to be composed of Messrs. Beausoleil, Bergeron, Charlton, Choquette, Craig, Davin, Earle, Ellis, Haley, La-Rivière, Monet, Richardson, Scriver, Somerville and Taylor.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT—THE MANITOBA SCHOOLS QUESTION.

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

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before the motion to adjourn is adopted, I take the opportunity of asking the hon. the leader of the Government whether the statement contained in a leading journal, that negotiations were now pending and likely to result favourably with regard to the question of the Manitoba schools, is well founded. The hon. gentleman is quite aware of the great anxiety which is felt on both sides of the House—I think I may say by every member of the House—to have this unhappy question brought to a satisfactory conclusion at as early a period as possible. It will be a great source of relief to the House to learn that this statement contained in a leading journal is well founded, and that negotiations are now pending and likely soon to result in a satisfactory arrangement.

The PRIME MINISTER. I have great pleasure in informing the hon. gentleman that, at my invitation, Mr. Sifton, the Attorney General of Manitoba, came down to Ottawa with the view of entering into negotiations for a settlement of that important question. Further than this I am not at liberty to say at this moment.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.