

of parliament, to lease any line or lines connecting with the Intercolonial railway.

A measure will be submitted to you for the purpose of rendering more effective the present legislation respecting combinations which unduly enhance prices.

Bills will also be introduced respecting banks and banking, insurance, navigable waters, and other matters.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts of the last year will be laid before you.

The estimates for the coming fiscal year will be submitted for your approval at an early date.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I pray the Almighty Lord that He may guide and bless your deliberations, and that they may bear fruit in a further increase of our country's prosperity and well-being.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses be taken into consideration on Monday next.

He said: I ask for Monday at the request of several members who are not prepared to commence the debate to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the select standing committees of this House under rule 10, said committee to be composed of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and Messieurs Borden, Paterson, Fielding, Haggart (Lanark), Pardee and Taylor (Leeds), and that portion of rule 10 limiting the number of members of the said committee be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament.—Mr. Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Before the House adjourns, I would like to mention, what I have already intimated privately to the Prime Minister, that to-morrow, probably on the motion to adjourn, we would like to discuss some delays in judicial appointments in the province of British Columbia.

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I would like to ask the Prime Minister when we may expect to have laid upon the table of the House the report of the proceedings of the recent Defence Conference; also whether there are any documents relating to the treaty with the French Republic which have not been brought down, and which ought to be brought down; also whether the government has in its possession any reports or information which ought to be laid upon the table of the House touching the operation of the recent United States tariff, more especially as it may possibly be affected by any treaty obligations into which the country has entered or may propose to enter; also whether there are any documents or any information of any character touching the position of the Waterways Treaty which the government propose to lay upon the table of the House.

I would like also to inquire whether or not the report of the resignation of Mr. Hugh D. Lumsden as chief engineer of the Transcontinental Railway is correct, and whether the government intend laying the papers touching that matter upon the table of the House.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not know whether my memory will be equal to the task laid upon me by my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden). He seems to be in an inquisitive mood. With regard to the conference which took place in London, I cannot tell him when the correspondence will be laid on the table, but I hope it will be early next week. As to the treaty, I am not aware of any such correspondence. As to the United States tariff, perhaps the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) can give my hon. friend some information.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). As to the French treaty, all the papers having any bearing on the subject were submitted to the House last session. Nothing has occurred since that time. At the moment, I am not aware of any papers on the subject to be laid before the House, but I will make inquiry, and if there are any, I will bring them down. As to the American tariff, there is no correspondence on that subject. Each of us may have his own impression as to what the effect of the tariff may be on Canadian affairs. But, inasmuch as we are not able, at present, to forecast what may be the judgment of the United States government in regard to the interpretation and application of the tariff, we did not think it expedient that the government should at present take any action or make any statement on the subject. The proper course, we thought, would be to await the action which the United States government, in its wisdom, may see fit to take with regard to the minimum and maximum tariff.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. As to the Waterways Treaty, the matter is under ad-