

SUPPLY—SALE OF ISLANDS IN GEORGIAN BAY—*Con.*

Olver, Hon. Frank (Minister of the Interior—*Con.*)

1897 was to sell all the islands at a single auction or rather by tender—6508. I submit that the facts and figures do not show that this government has been negligent of the interests of the Indians—6486.

Taylor, George (Leeds)—6486.

If it was about fifteen or twenty years ago they were then worthless—6486.

Wright, W. (Muskoka)—6477.

I would like to call the attention of the government to the condition of affairs in relation to some islands in the Georgian bay—6477-8. I understood that the policy of the department was to put these islands up in small lots—6486.

SUPPLY—THE SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT—9085.

Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—9090.

Why could you not have brought these estimates down so that we could have them before us?—9090. Fielding has given not a word of reason for bringing down these estimates at this time—9094. Certain legislation was promised four years ago, but never enacted—9095. It is becoming absolutely unbearable that we should year after year spend our summers here in Ottawa—9096.

Borden, Hon. Sir Frederick (Minister of Militia and Defence)—9095.

The militia estimates were brought up for the first time on the 1st of February—9099. I was doing everything in my power to secure the answer from the imperial authorities—9100. The new policy, if it be a new policy, is involved in the new estimates—9101.

Fielding, Hon. Wm. S. (Minister of Finance)—9090.

I am inclined to think that he magnifies the difficulties of the situation—9090. Even if we were to stay here for six months, some hon gentlemen opposite would say they had not sufficient information—9091. In re to the militia expenditures, I understand that there was a postponement of the debate by mutual consent—9092. I would say to Foster that these estimates were prepared in November or December last—9093. The reasons that have accounted for the present delays are fair reasons, which I think the House ought to accept—9094. No; there is very much to be said in favour of it—9096.

Foster, Hon. Geo. E. (North Toronto)—9085.

It has not been possible for us to enter upon the discussion of these estimates until to-day—9085. There can be no such thing as fair or efficient criticism and discussion of these items—9086. We have a total of 336 different items under public works—9087. A state of things like this is not conducive to good adminis-

SUPPLY—THE SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT—*Con.*

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tration, and it is not consonant with a proper parliamentary check—9088. Public expenditure should be initiated by the government, and should be submitted for fair and efficient discussion to the House—9089. Moves resolution of protest—9090. Every time the Transcontinental appropriations are brought up there must be discussion—9102. There is, I admit, an excuse perhaps for the policy of the departments being delayed—9103. My experience is this, that the session will, as a rule, be long or short in proportion to the preparation made by the ministers—9104. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, with the leave of my seconder and of the House, I will withdraw my motion—9105.

Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister)—9096.

I agree that we have brought down the supplementary estimates rather late in the session—9096. I think our action can be defended upon its own merits and not upon the former delinquencies of our predecessors—9097. I am as anxious as Borden is that we should expedite the work of the session—9098. Early next session we should have a committee to revise the rules of the House—9099.

SUPPLY—STEAMSHIP COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CANADA AND MEXICO.

On motion that House go into Committee of Supply, Mr. Foster introduced the subject of steamship communication between Canada and Mexico—66.

Foster, Hon. Geo. E. (North Toronto)—67.

Would like to know from minister in charge how matter stands at present—67.

Mulock, Hon. Sir William (Postmaster General)—67.

There is nothing now in the way of our completing arrangements for the Atlantic if we can get it within the subsidy. The Mexican government hope to complete a similar service on the Pacific—67-8.

SUPPLY—STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH P.E.I.—SNOW BLOCKADE IN MARITIME PROVINCES—DELAY OF MAILS—1753.

Emmerson, Hon. H. E. (Minister of Railways and Canals)—1754.

The blockade, of course, has been a very great drawback to the business interests of the maritime provinces—1754.

Hughes, J. J. (King's, P.E.I.)—1754.

Was informed that the postmaster at Charlottetown had full power to employ teams to convey the mails—1754.

Lefurgey, A. A. (Prince, P.E.I.)—1753.

It seems to me that this is very unsatisfactory handling the public mails of this country—1753. It would appear that the postmaster at Charlottetown had been appealed to—1754.