

Mr. SPROULE. Surely, if property has changed hands recently, the actual price paid is the best evidence of value, and it would seem that the best course would be to ascertain the facts concerning such transactions.

Mr. GRAHAM. I think that the safest way is for the government to expropriate the property, and then there can be no question. We intend to take all the precautions necessary, as we want to get full value. My hon. friend from South Simcoe (Mr. Lennox) asked yesterday about the expenditure on the Canada Eastern. I gave that information last year. It is quite a long statement, and I hope he will not mind if I send him the number of the page on which it appears in 'Hansard.'

Mr. CROCKET. As to the Chatham diversion, the minister promised to bring down a plan. That can be seen at the department, I suppose?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, we have it.

Some resolutions reported.

Mr. SPROULE. What business will be taken up to-morrow?

Mr. FIELDING. The Naval Bill.

House adjourned at six o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, February 3, 1910.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL—FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Mr. FIELDING presented a message from His Excellency the Governor General as follows:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, further supplementary estimates of sums required for the service of the Dominion for the year ending March 31, 1910, and, in accordance with the provisions of 'The British North America Act, 1867,' the Governor General recommends these estimates to the House of Commons.

Mr. FIELDING moved that His Excellency's message together with the estimates be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Motion agreed to.

### NATIONAL TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY—CLASSIFICATION OF MATERIAL.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

That the committee ordered by this House to investigate certain matters in connection

with Mr. Lumsden's resignation as chief engineer of the National Transcontinental Railway be composed of seven members instead of five, namely, Messrs. Geoffrion, Macdonald, Clarke (South Essex), Wilson (Laval), Lennox, Barker and Crothers.

Mr. J. D. REID. I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman, the Prime Minister, if it is the intention to allow this committee to investigate the charges made by Mr. Lumsden of over-classification?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It is the intention that the charges ordered to be investigated by the House shall be investigated.

Mr. J. D. REID. The Prime Minister did not state the other day definitely whether his resolution really referred to the charge of over-classification, as made by Mr. Lumsden.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If I have not succeeded in convincing my hon. friend of what I meant I am afraid that anything I might add will not do so.

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTIONS.

### BRANDON AGENCY.

Mr. LAKE:

1. How many persons are employed in the office of the inspector of agencies at Brandon?
2. How many days were they absent from the office during the period commencing 1st April, 1907, and ending 31st March, 1909, on duty and on leave, respectively?
3. How many days was the inspector of agencies absent from his office during the same period on duty and on leave, respectively?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER:

1. 3.
2. As the duties of the inspector are chiefly outside the office no account is kept of the period of their absence.
3. Answered by No. 2.

### THE BANKING ACT.

Mr. BEATTIE:

1. Is it a fact that the Banking Act of Canada will expire shortly?
2. If so, has the government obtained any reliable information regarding the Banking Acts of other countries? If not, will the government endeavour to secure such information in the near future?
3. Does the government intend to allow that portion of the existing Banking Act to remain in force, by which the banks of Canada are said to issue nearly one hundred millions of dollars of currency; thereby making, as alleged, enormous profits, for which privilege the people of Canada do not receive one cent of interest in return?

Hon. W. S. FIELDING. It is contemplated to provide a Banking Act during the present session. I cannot add anything to that statement at present.