

for us to wait—three or four hours—for the transfer of our mail from the city office to the office in the House of Commons.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Hon. Wm. Mulock). Mr. Speaker, I will inquire into this matter that the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. LaRivière) has brought to my attention, but, I will say, that there has been no change since I took office four years ago.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Last session the mails were sent up more regularly.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. There has been no change made to my knowledge since we took office.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the government to what appears to me to be an extraordinary fact. The only reason given for this House meeting to-morrow is to consider some business that is to be brought forward by hon. gentlemen occupying seats on the opposition benches, and, although we were told in the speech from the Throne that measures would be submitted to us :

—for the better supervision of the export trade in food products, and also in connection with the post office, the Pacific cable and various other subjects

—we have been meeting and adjourning here day after day for want of a single measure introduced on the part of the government. This is the only part of the programme suggested to us in what was expected at the opening to be a business session.

Mr. FRASER. So it is.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. We have, on this side of the House, given every assurance that we were ready to go on, but everything has come to a full stop because, as the hon. Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding) says, one department of the government has for the moment broken down and it is not able to discharge its proper duties. Consequently, not being in a position to ask for supplies, having none of their measures ready for the consideration of the House, they propose that we should take up only such business as the opposition shall bring forward. I think this is a very unfortunate position for the government, and since the business of the government is in our hands they might very well listen to the suggestion of the hon. gentleman who has his business ready and rest over to-morrow before we tackle that.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.40 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, February 15, 1901.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. L. N. CHAMPAGNE (Wright) (Translation.) moved :

That the first report of the Select Standing Committee appointed to supervise the official report of the Debates of the House be now concurred in.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). (Translation.) What does the report contain?

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. (Translation.) The report the adoption of which I move recommends that the quorum of the committee be reduced from eight to five members.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That the report of the special committee appointed to report the lists of members to compose the select standing committees of this House be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That a select committee composed of Messrs. Borden (Halifax), Bourassa, Brock, Casgrain, Clancy, Clarke, Davies (Sir Louis), Flint, Fraser, Heyd, Hyman, Johnston (Lambton), Laurier (Sir Wilfrid), Monk, Roche (Marquette), Scott and Wade, be appointed to assist Mr. Speaker in the direction of the Library of Parliament so far as the interests of this House are concerned, and to act as members of a joint committee of both Houses on the Library.

Motion agreed to.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That a Message be ordered to be sent to the Senate informing their Honours that this House will unite with them in the formation of a joint committee of both Houses on the subject of the printing of parliament, and that the members of the Select Standing Committee on Printing, viz. :—Messrs. Bennett, Casgrain, Clarke, Davis, Holmes, Hughes (Victoria), Hyman, Johnston (Cape Breton), Johnston (Lambton), LaRivière, Lavergne, Loy, Maclean, McColl, Marcell (Bonaventure), Oliver, Parmelee, Préfontaine, Richardson (Grey), Scott, Sutherland (Oxford), Taylor, Thompson and Tisdale, will act as members on the part of this House on said Joint Committee on the Printing of Parliament.

Motion agreed to.