

them, it is not for me to find fault. I hope they will see their mistake and withdraw them. Again I say, if these amendments are carried, there is one course open to the government. You will produce a condition of political chaos in Canada which is not good for the Conservative party, which is not good for the Progressive party, which is not good for the Liberal party, and which is not good for the state. But, whatever the consequence of this may be, this self-respecting government cannot accept the amendments referred to.

On motion of Mr. Bancroft the debate was adjourned.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### WEDNESDAY SITTINGS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING: Before the House adjourns, I should like to move, seconded by the hon. Mr. Fielding:

That on Wednesday, the seventh instant, and subsequent Wednesdays to the end of the session, the House will meet at three o'clock in the afternoon.

That is instead of two o'clock as the Rules at present prescribe. I have spoken to my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) and the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Forke) and neither of those hon. gentlemen will take exception to the government moving this motion if it assumes responsibility for so doing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Under ordinary circumstances, according to the Rules, I would have to ask the right hon. gentleman to give two days' notice, but by unanimous consent the motion may be put.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

## Wednesday, February 7, 1923.

The House met at three o'clock.

### BY-ELECTIONS IN 1922

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Chief Electoral Officer the statutory report of the by-elections held during the year 1922, printed pursuant to section 72 of the Dominion Elections Act.

### REPORT PRESENTED

Detailed statement of all bonds and securities registered in the Department of the

Secretary of State for Canada, as provided by section 32, Chapter 19 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906.—Hon. Mr. Copp.

## THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Consideration of the motion of Mr. Putnam for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Hoey, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Shaw, resumed from Tuesday, February 6.

Mr. L. P. BANCROFT (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in the debate in reply to the Speech of his Excellency, I wish first to deal briefly with the speech delivered yesterday afternoon by the hon. member for South Cape Breton (Mr. Carroll). I want to compliment my hon. friend upon that speech; it was a good one, and I heartily agree with nearly everything that he said. But I cannot quite agree with some of his remarks in connection with matters concerning western Canada, and I wish, if I may, to make some reference to that part of his speech.

Referring to a letter written by someone in Edmonton to a Scottish newspaper, my hon. friend asserted that the statement contained therein was exaggerated. I agree that it was exaggerated, but I contend that my hon. friend's comment in that connection was exaggerated also. He stated, according to yesterday's Hansard:

There are thousands and thousands of farmers in the West who are comfortably situated—as comfortably situated as the capitalist in Montreal or Toronto.

If the farmers of western Canada, of Manitoba particularly, are as well situated as those gentlemen to whom my hon. friend referred, why is it that the Manitoba reports show that there were 4,000 fewer farmers in that province last year than there were the year before? The reports show that there were 55,000 farmers in Manitoba in 1921 and 51,000 in 1922. I submit, therefore, that the figures do not agree with my hon. friend's statement. In designating the location of the farmers who, my hon. friend alleged, were so prosperous, he described a circle with a radius of twenty-five miles around the city of Winnipeg. Now, the constituency which I have the honour to represent adjoins Winnipeg on the north, and I have an intimate knowledge of at least a great part of the district included in that circle; my own farm, in fact, is very close to it. I would invite my hon. friend, when the session is over, to come west and look into this matter for himself. I will show