

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—These documents come to the Library; they do not come to us. The moment I saw this document I ordered five hundred copies to be printed, and we shall have them on the table to-morrow.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned.

### THE SENATE.

*Ottawa, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1900.*

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

#### INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.) rose to

Call the attention of the Government to the immediate necessity for steps being taken to ascertain whether it is necessary for the preservation of health, that persons of Japanese birth, and the products of Japan, should be excluded from the Dominion of Canada, until such time as the infected ports of Japan shall be declared free of the bubonic plague.

He said: I have to ask the House to accept this short notice on account of the importance of the question to which the motion refers. It is quite possible the government have already taken steps in this very important matter. We know that in India for a long time this bubonic plague has been raging and has been spreading to Japan and the Sandwich Islands. With these countries we have communication continually. There are about four steamers of different lines coming into British Columbia ports, one steamer, or perhaps two steamers, arriving each week. These steamers carry products with them such as silks, cotton and fabrics of that kind, and fruit, and no one can tell how these products are put up, or whether they are put up by infected persons or in infected houses. Take oranges: how are they to be disinfected at the quarantine station? It is an impossibility. These oranges are eaten largely by the people of this country, and the skins of the oranges might contain the germs of the plague; and so with silks and other fabrics. I thought it my duty to call the attention of the government to this very

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

serious matter. If that plague once found its way into this country, we would probably never get rid of it again. It would be a very drastic measure, of course, to stop the importation of all kinds of products from Japan and to stop immigration; but it would be far better to do that and to take every precaution than to have the plague coming into the country. I think that the government should at once, if they have not done so already, get their **most expert** quarantine men to look into this matter and see what can be done. I am of the opinion that silks and fabrics of that kind, and fruit cannot be properly disinfected.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—My attention has not been called to this matter except by the paragraphs in the newspapers. I did not receive the impression that the bubonic plague prevailed in Japan to any extent. It has been, of course, a prevalent disease in India for the last two or three years, but I have not learned that it existed in Japan. I will make inquiries. This matter, of course, is under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Agriculture and he, no doubt, would direct his attention to it if he became aware that it prevailed in that country. I will make inquiry of him and let my hon. friend know whether any action will be taken, or whether, in fact, the plague prevails to such an extent as to warrant the government taking action.

### THE ADDRESS.

#### DEBATE CONTINUED.

The order of the day being called—

Resuming the debate on the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech on the opening of the Fifth Session of the Eighth Parliament.

Hon. Mr. MILLS said: It is my duty, in the first instance, to congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne on their very interesting and instructive speeches. It is my duty also to congratulate my hon. friend who made this motion on the patriotic and eloquent remarks which he addressed to the House upon the subject of the war in South Africa. My hon. friend by his speech has done not a little to show that although there may be different nationalities in Canada, there is but one sentiment