

Mr. FOSTER. A very good theory.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. But I have to say this, that I have spoken to the Auditor General, and he tells me he expects that part of his report will be ready on Monday, and the other part in a very few days. I do not know what will be the practice of the present Auditor General, but I may say of the previous one, that I often asked him to bring his report down to a certain period, say the 1st of January, or the last of December, or to some definite period, and to reserve anything that might be necessary for a future instalment. But the late Auditor General always insisted upon carrying on his report week by week until the very eve of the session. I do not know what will be the practice in this respect of the present Auditor General, but I have had the pleasure of meeting him, and ascertaining from him that the report will be ready in due time, and I think it will satisfy the curiosity of my hon. friend.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. All the same, we remember that it is nearly eight and a half months since the close of the last fiscal year, and one would suppose that was a sufficiently long period in which to prepare and print that document, and furnish it to members of parliament before this. If the proposal of the government is carried out, to terminate the fiscal year on the 31st of March and to begin the session early in November, a proposal with which I heartily concur, as I stated last year, that will give the Auditor General seven months in which to prepare his report and have it ready for the commencement of parliament. Well, not only seven months, but nearly a month and a half more have elapsed, yet we have not the Auditor General's Report, so it is clear that for the future that gentleman must make haste more rapidly than he has done during the past. I venture to think that the House should endeavour to ascertain why it is that this report has been so long delayed this year.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.20 p. m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, March 12, 1903.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT, 1900, AMENDMENT.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 2) further to amend the Dominion Elections Act, 1900. He said: This Bill is practically the same as the  
Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

one introduced by me towards the close of last session. It is designed to accelerate the bringing on of by-elections in case the administration of the day does not see fit to act within a given time.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 3) further to amend the Act respecting the House of Commons. He said: This Bill is supplementary to the one which I have just introduced. For the purpose of accomplishing the desired result, it was necessary that the two statutes should be amended, and I thought the best course to follow was to introduce a separate Bill for the purpose of amending each statute.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### CRIMINAL CODE, 1892, AMENDMENTS.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 4) further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892. He said: The main provisions of this Bill are in fulfilment of a promise which I made towards the end of last session to introduce legislation with respect to the practice of members of parliament and of legislatures receiving rewards for their services in parliament or in a legislature, or in the departments of the government. I believe that the Minister of Justice proposes to introduce a Bill along similar lines. This Bill which I am now introducing deals incidentally with several other matters. It provides that the members of the Board of Railway Commissioners are persons holding a judicial office within the meaning of section 131 of the Criminal Code. It also makes certain provisions with respect to section 133 of the Criminal Code, providing that the enactment contained in that section should extend to and include the Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway, and persons holding the office of such commissioners from time to time.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### DOMINION CONTROVERTED ELEC- TIONS ACT, AMENDMENTS.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 5) further to amend the Dominion Controverted Elections Act. He said: The immediate occasion of the introduction of this Bill is a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada by which the existing law has been interpreted as preventing further proceedings upon an