

response, petitions or memorials, if there are any.

Mr. REID: I intend, immediately after the Orders of the Day have been passed, to telephone Mr. McDougald to come over here, and I will ask the hon. member for Westmorland to tell the commissioner just what he wants, and to have Mr. McDougald get him all the information and papers he requires.

Mr. EMMERSON: That is very satisfactory.

#### CANADIANS AT BISLEY.

On the Orders of the Day being called:

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou): I desire to ask leave to move the adjournment of this House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action of the War Office and National Rifle Association in limiting certain competitions at Bisley to rifles which are not equipped with the aperture sight, which may have the effect of excluding Canadian riflemen from competing at Bisley.

Mr. FOSTER: I do not wish to intervene so that my hon. friend shall not have his discussion, but the next motion will be one to go into Supply, and could he not take it then equally well?

Mr. SPEAKER: I might say that to-day the House goes into Supply without a motion; the Speaker leaves the Chair without motion.

Mr. FOSTER: I am a little at a disadvantage since the revised rules have been instituted.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I do not think my hon. friend is in error, although he was not here last year. I put a question to the Prime Minister just a week ago as to whether or not the rule would apply, and I understood from what the Prime Minister said that on that day the matter was by consent, and therefore the rule would not apply.

Mr. FOSTER: My right hon. friend is correct; I remember the conversation. The Prime Minister said that he did not intend that the rule should apply. We are going into the discussion now of the Estimates of the Minister of Labour. It is a new department and it requires a motion. My hon. friend will be able to come in then.

[Mr. Emmerson.]

Mr. MACDONALD: It is what the Speaker says.

Mr. FOSTER: It is for the Speaker to decide.

Mr. SPEAKER: In regard to Rule 17, if I correctly heard the right hon. the leader of the Opposition, as well as the right hon. the Prime Minister, they are not quite correct in the interpretation which they place upon it. The rule says:

On Thursdays and Fridays, when the Order of the Day is called for the House to go into Committee of Supply, or of Ways and Means, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without putting any question, provided that, except by the consent of the House, the Estimates of each department shall be first taken up on a day other than Thursday or Friday.

That is the exception, but that does not apply to the question of the Speaker leaving the Chair.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The Speaker automatically leaves the Chair if the subject which is coming up for discussion has already been before the House, but in order to confer on the House the power to discuss that matter, a motion must be made whether it is Thursday or Friday or any other day. The other day I wanted to have the matter discussed and settled and the Prime Minister said: You are too generous to the Government; to-day we will proceed by consent because the rule would not apply.

Mr. SPEAKER: That would not be my interpretation of it at all.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I need not remind you, Mr. Speaker, that by consent of the House we can do almost anything.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am quite convinced of the correctness of that. The House can suspend any of its rules by unanimous consent, but I am only endeavouring to give the House what I regard to be the proper interpretation of the rule so that the House may understand it and govern itself accordingly. If it be the express wish of the House that this interpretation of the rule be not followed, of course, I cannot object to it.

Mr. MACDONALD: I assume that under your ruling, Mr. Speaker, we shall discuss the question now, or is it understood that we shall have the consent of the House on the motion to go into Supply?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member would be more in order to discuss it now.