

House of Commons Debates

FOURTH SESSION—NINTH PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 26, 1904.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 77) respecting the Hamilton, Grimsby and Beamsville Electric Railway Company.—Mr. German.

Bill (No. 78) respecting the Ottawa River Railway Company.—Mr. Ethier.

Bill (No. 79) to incorporate the Thompson River Improvement Company.—Mr. Morrison.

Bill (No. 80) respecting the West Canadian Collieries, Limited.—Mr. Oliver.

Bill (No. 81) to incorporate the Canadian Traction and Power Company.—Mr. Champagne.

Bill (No. 82) respecting the Essex Terminal Railway Company.—Mr. Cowan.

Bill (No. 83) respecting the Nepigon Railway Company.—Mr. McCool.

PROCEDURE—GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister) moved :

That the Bill (No. 72), An Act to amend the National Transcontinental Railway Act, be the first Order of the Day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, after questions put by members, until finally disposed of.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does that give any opportunity for motions ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No, it does not.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Would it not be advisable to have an opportunity for motions on at least one day in the week ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I would have hoped that my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) would have that opportunity on Monday next.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I join with my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in that hope but we must be prepared for eventualities and possibilities.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If we have not disposed of this Bill by the end of this week,

I think my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) and I can agree to have a day to dispose of the motions on the order paper.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Very well, with that understanding I have no objection to this motion being carried.

Motion agreed to.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. URIAH WILSON (Lennox). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to inquire of the Postmaster General (Sir William Mulock) when I may expect the return to be brought down respecting the dismissal of the postmaster at Wilton, in the riding of Lennox, which was moved for on March 17th.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. I will make inquiry and inform the hon. member to-morrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. A. C. BELL (Pictou). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call attention to a matter relating to myself personally and in that connection I will quote an article which appears in the 'Globe' of yesterday. The article is as follows :—

There are certain conventions and amenities recognized in parliament that are necessary to the conduct of its business in a civilized way. There seems to be an element both at Toronto and Ottawa disposed to ignore this. One of the matters arranged between the whips is the order of speaking. This had been settled between Messrs. Calvert and Taylor for Wednesday night last. Mr. Alcorn was to be the last speaker on the Conservative side and the premier was to close the debate. Mr. Bell, the member for Pictou, however, chose to ignore the disposition made by the authority of his own whip and achieved the highest form of fame he will ever achieve.

So far as this is a personal matter, I might perhaps absolutely ignore it. At any rate the rather insolent suggestion contained in the last sentence is one which I think will be most properly treated with entire and complete contempt. At the same time, it is necessary that I should offer some explanation to the House as to what some members may perhaps have thought an irregularity. My understanding was that the