

Mr. SPROULE. The committee has reported.

Mr. SPEAKER. Then, I think the point is not well taken.

Mr. SPROULE. I was going on to say that, in answer to the statement that all companies did the same, I said that, so far as my knowledge extended, no respectable companies in Canada did it. I named the Canada Permanent and the Western Canada, the Farmers' Loan and Savings, the British Canadian, as companies that did not do it, and I said that I was confident that the same might be said of others. But I find a class of companies that have sprung up lately and are carrying on operations in this line. It will be seen that the report does not represent fairly what I said. I do not attribute to this correspondent any desire to misreport me, but it is evident that his summary is based on imperfect information or upon a misunderstanding of what I said.

THE PRINTING OF THE VOTERS' LISTS.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). May I ask the leader of the Government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) if anything has been done or any arrangement made to carry out the provision of the Franchise List Act. I find, on inquiry, that the lists of the county of Pictou for last year have been sent and that those for this year are here or are ready to be sent. I desire to know if we are to receive the lists in printed form?

The PRIME MINISTER. We have an appropriation in the supplementary Estimates for that very purpose.

Mr. BERGERON. We understood that the point was to be considered and decided, and either Parliament was to be asked to vote the money to print the voters' list or else a Bill would be introduced to change the law. Has that been done?

The PRIME MINISTER. There is no change in the law. The lists are to be printed.

Mr. BERGERON. But they were to be printed last year, and they were not printed. Mine were not.

The PRIME MINISTER. It may be that the appropriation proved insufficient.

Mr. McDUGALL. May I ask if the department have called upon the different county clerks to send in the lists? The reason why I put the question is that, as I understand it, unless within the last few days, the lists from the county of Cape Breton have not reached the Printing Bureau. Where they are, I cannot say. I am aware that some members have received copies of their lists printed from the Print-

Mr. SPEAKER.

ing Bureau. When I asked at the Printing Bureau for mine, I was informed that they had not received the lists.

The PRIME MINISTER. I cannot inform my hon. friend (Mr. McDougall). The only information I have is a report received yesterday or the day before from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery that the officers have been very negligent in sending in the lists, and very few lists have been received up to this moment.

Mr. BERGERON. How will it be in the future?

The PRIME MINISTER. My intention is to instruct the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to write a circular letter to all the officers to send in the lists.

Mr. BERGERON. The other day the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) explained that there was a flaw in the law, and that the officers cannot be forced to send in their lists, as they are not paid any fee. According to the hon. Minister (Sir Louis Davies) the law was to be amended one way or the other—either we would vote money to provide fees for these people and then compel them to send the lists, or it would be provided that the lists should not be printed except when absolutely necessary. If there is to be no amendment of the law, I do not know how my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is going to be sure of having the lists sent.

The PRIME MINISTER. To pay a fee to the officers would certainly be a good way to force them.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I know that, in some cases, the lists have been paid for by the Government. The officer who supplied the lists for my county was paid, though he claims he was not paid as much as he was entitled to. I did not understand that there was any question of the payment of the county clerk. I am surprised also to learn that some of the lists have been printed.

The PRIME MINISTER. It is the intention to have the lists printed, and we are having an appropriation for that purpose.

FOREIGN IMMIGRATION.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to speak upon a matter that I consider of great importance, and, to put myself right, Mr. Speaker, as my remarks will be somewhat lengthy, I will conclude with a motion. I was present when the right hon. leader of the Government saw fit to castigate my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) for bringing forward a matter, before the Orders of the Day were called, which he, with his knowledge of parlia-