

House of Commons Debates

SECOND SESSION—TENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, June 26, 1906.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Eleven o'clock.

THE VACANCY IN NORTH RENFREW.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). I wish to draw the attention of the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the government to the fact that the constituency of North Renfrew is vacant owing to the decease of Hon. Peter White, and to inquire if any action has been taken towards filling that vacancy.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). Mr. Speaker, the first thing is for my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) to draw your attention to the fact that there is a vacancy.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will accept what I have said as drawing your attention to the vacancy, and that the action necessary in such a case will soon be taken.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

BILL RELATING TO USURY.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton). I would like to ask the government whether it is anticipated that the Bill relating to Usury and creating certain offences in regard to usury will pass this session? The matter has attracted a good deal of attention. There are undoubtedly some evils existent in this matter, in certain parts of the country. I understand that this Bill is to be taken up to-morrow by the Banking and Commerce Committee to whom it has been referred, but I would inquire what is the probability of its being passed this session?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I can not speak just now as to the probability, but my desire is to deal with the question. We hope that the committee will report to-morrow, and if they do, I shall then be in a position to give my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) an answer.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton). I would suggest to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) that he should take into consideration the advisability of having the Auditor General's Report presented in instalments as it is prepared. I think that a motion to that effect was made by Mr. Charlton, then a member of the House, three or four years ago, but it was not entertained by the government. I think there can be no reasonable objection to it, however. I believe the Auditor General gets his report ready in parts; in any case, I suppose it would be possible for him to do so and to arrange to put out each part as it is completed. It should be presented to the House as early as possible in order that we may have something to work upon, and in order that estimates brought down by the government should not be delayed because the members have not been furnished with the information necessary for the discussion of those estimates. It is anticipated, I understand, that the next session will begin in November. The Auditor General's Report for the present session will be in a little more difficult position than in any subsequent year. Hereafter the fiscal year will close on March 31. This year we shall have the unusual condition of the fiscal year ending on June 30, followed by an early session. It seems to me that some special provision should be