

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There has been an invitation sent by Mr. Edmund Barton, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia. It is to the Prime Minister of Canada personally:—

The people of Australia will be overjoyed if you can visit them at the time of the opening of the first parliament of Commonwealth by His Royal Highness the Duke of York.

This is the only invitation that has been received so far, and the acceptance of it will depend on the length of the session.

ALLOTMENT OF ROOMS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. ROBINSON (West Elgin) by Mr. Puttee asked:

1. How many rooms are there in the House of Commons for the use of members during the session?
2. What disposition has been made of each one for the present session and to what members have they been allotted?
3. Has any provision been made for the accommodation of Independent members of the House this session as was made last session?
4. If not, why not, and will the government make such provision?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. Israel Tarte). There are twenty rooms for the use of ministers and members of the House. The disposal that has been made this year of these rooms is the same that was made up to 1896.

Mr. WALLACE. No.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Exactly the same as was made in 1896. The rooms have been disposed of as follows: No. 26, Nova Scotia; 27, French Whip's room; 16, Ministerial room. No. 16 is the Ministerial room. No. 6 is very well known as the Opposition room. No. 7 is the room of the Minister of Public Works. No. 7½ is the room of the Postmaster General. No. 33, which was last year occupied by the Hon. Mr. Foster, has been given to the Hon. Mr. Costigan, who belongs to the same province.

Mr. BENNETT. Quite a change though.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes, for the better. Room 34 has been given to the Minister of Inland Revenue and the Solicitor General. Room 33A has been given to the Printing Committee, as last year. No. 89 is the Prime Minister's room. No. 90 is the room of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. No. 91 is the room of the Minister of the Interior. No. 92 is the room of the Minister of Railways and Canals. No. 94 is the room of the English Ministerial Whips. No. 93 is the room of the Minister of Customs. No. 95 is the room of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Militia. No.

3½

96 is the room of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. No. 42 is the room of the ex-ministers. No. 4 is the room of the leader of the Opposition. I repeat that the rooms this year are used the same as since 1896.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

VENTILATION ON OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth) asked:

1. Has the government taken any steps to induce the ocean steamship companies to ventilate the holds in which apples are carried? If so, what steps, and with what success?
2. What steamers, if any, have been induced to ventilate the holds in which apples are carried, and what means do they use to effect the ventilation?
3. Has the government taken any steps, and if so, what steps, to ascertain if the steamers have actually carried out their promises, if any were made, in regard to ventilation of holds for apples?
4. Has the government taken any steps to ascertain the results of the ventilation of holds of vessels for apples in regard to their condition on arrival in Great Britain? If so, what is the result?
5. Does the government intend again to test the value of British markets for Canadian grapes?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Hon. Sydney A. Fisher):

1. The Department of Agriculture requested and urged the owners and agents of various steamship lines from Canadian ports to provide ventilation for the holds or other places in which apples were carried, by the use of fans or otherwise. A communication to that effect was sent to them under date September 29, 1897. The matter has been followed up every year since that date; and the various owners and agents were urged to provide ventilated accommodation for cheese also.

2. In July, 1900, the Department of Agriculture offered a bonus of \$100 towards the initial expense of fitting up each approved steamship, to be paid after the ventilating equipment had been in use for at least three voyages. Twenty-three steamers were fitted with exhaust fans to ventilate the holds wherein fruit and other perishable cargo was stowed. These were steamers of the Allan, Thomson and Donaldson lines. The steamers of the Dominion Line, the Elder-Dempster Lines and the Manchester Liners (Limited) are reported as being provided with only the ordinary ventilators.

3. Agents of the department were stationed in Montreal and at the ports of London, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow, to observe and report on the loading and discharge of Canadian cargoes. The report indicates that the cargoes were delivered in better condition from the holds ventilated by exhaust fans than from other holds. The government intends to continue trial shipments of grapes.