

The PRIME MINISTER moved :

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present session be appointed for the following purposes :—1. On Privileges and Elections. 2. On Expiring Laws. 3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines. 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills. 5. On Standing Orders. 6. On Printing. 7. On Public Accounts. 8. On Banking and Commerce. 9. On Agriculture and Colonization,—which said committees shall severally be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT—NEW LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier.) Before I move the adjournment of the House, I desire to give notice that to-morrow, if it be convenient to my hon. friends on the other side, I propose to move an address to His Majesty the King, of which I intimated the nature yesterday. I will avail myself of this opportunity to tender my congratulations, as well as the congratulations of this side of the House, to my hon. friend the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) on his advancement to the high office of leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition. Of course, it would not be fitting for me to offer any suggestion whatever, or any observations, as to what should be the internal policy of the Conservative party; but speaking as a citizen of Canada, I am quite sure that the elevation of my hon. friend to the position that he now occupies must be very gratifying to himself. Speaking personally, and as leader of the House, it affords me much pleasure to think in advance that the relations between my hon. friend and myself will be always pleasant and cordial. I am well aware that it will be my painful duty on many occasions to dissent from the views of my hon. friend because, as it is his misfortune to be in the wrong on the main question, I do not anticipate that he can be in the right on the minor ones. But we will agree to disagree as we have done in the past, and I am quite sure that my hon. friend will believe in my absolute sincerity when I tell

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him that I hope, with all my heart, he may continue to exercise for a long, long period, the functions of leader of the opposition. I beg to move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, I thank the right hon. gentleman for the kindness and courtesy which he has so well expressed in the remarks he has just seen fit to make with regard to myself. He will permit me, however, to say, in passing, that if I should remain leader of the opposition for as long a period as that joke is old, it will be wholly beyond my own expectations, and beyond the expectations of the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. It will be our painful duty, I expect, on some occasions, to differ with the right hon. gentleman and those who support him, as to what will be the best interests of the country, but I can only say that I shall add my efforts to his in the direction that our differences shall be adjusted, so far as they can be adjusted in this House, in a kindly and courteous manner. In saying that, I am sure that I voice the sentiments of every hon. gentleman on this side of the House. It is needless for me to say that I have accepted the trust which has been reposed in me by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House with a great deal of diffidence and hesitation. That diffidence and that hesitation have not been inspired by any fear of the loyalty or fidelity of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, in which I have the most perfect confidence. They have rather been inspired by my own comparative inexperience in public life, and by the fact that I doubted my own capacity to follow in the footsteps of those great men, who, in times past, have filled the position of leader, on one side or other, in the House, of the party which I now have the honour to lead in this House. I remember also that the traditions of this House have been sustained by great men who are now on the other side of the House, but who for many years fought the battles of their party with more or less varying fortune from the side of the House which is now occupied by my hon. friends and myself. It will be quite convenient for us to dispose of the motion to which the right hon. gentleman has referred to-morrow, and I am sure that the motion which has been suggested will receive the most cordial support from hon. gentlemen on this side of the House.

REPORT.

Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament.—(Mr. Speaker.)

On motion of the Prime Minister the House adjourned at 3.50 p.m.