

House of Commons Debates

FIRST SESSION—TENTH PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, April 7, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 130), from the Senate, for the relief of Jane Marie Fitzsimmons.—Mr. Calvert.

Bill (No. 131) respecting the Vancouver and Coast Kootenay Railway Company.—Mr. Macpherson.

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE.

Mr. T. GREENWAY (Lisgar) moved :

That the second report of the select standing committee on Agriculture and Colonization be concurred in.

He said : The committee has thought it desirable that a good deal of the evidence given before it, and which is of a most important character, should be printed as soon as possible and distributed in the agricultural districts. The report recommends that 20,000 copies of the evidence of J. A. Rud-dick, Dairy Commissioner, be printed in pamphlet form, 16,900 copies to be distributed to members of parliament, 3,000 copies to the Department of Agriculture for distribution, and 50 copies for the use of the committee. It also recommends that 20,000 copies of the evidence of Dr. William Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farm, be printed ; that 20,000 copies of the evidence of each member of the official staff at the central experimental farm be printed, 19,400 copies of which shall go to members of parliament for distribution, 550 copies to each of the officials and 50 copies for the use of the committee, the proportion of French and English copies to be as usual. This was the unanimous report of the committee, in which I agree, and I trust the House will adopt the report.

Mr. D. HENDERSON. I do not rise to object to the motion, because it is highly desirable, in my opinion, that the evidence given before the Committee on Agriculture should have as wide distribution as possible throughout the country. However, I find that instead of having this evidence promptly printed and distributed, the greater part of the reports of last year's committee are

still lying within the precincts of this House. An effort should be made to have these reports distributed more expeditiously, for if they are not put in the hands of members before the end of the session the facilities for distributing them will not be so great, and there is danger that the distribution will be neglected. I ask that the chairman should use his best endeavours with those in authority to have the reports printed as soon as possible and given to the members before the end of the session.

Motion agreed to.

EXTENSION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF MANITOBA.

On the Orders of the Day being called,

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). I wish to draw the attention of the First Minister to a matter referred to by him in his speeches of yesterday and the day before, and in reference to which his statement was, unfortunately, inaccurate. I refer to the following words used by the Prime Minister, 'Hansard,' page 3839 of April 5th :

Mr. Rogers says that the ablegate made this remark :

This invitation was accepted and His Excellency then presented the following memorandum, remarking that if we would place this on the statute-book of our province it would greatly facilitate an early settlement of our mission, the fixing of our boundaries, which would be extended to the shores of Hudson bay.

As to that, I have no reason to make any comment, because that is a thing as to which I know nothing. Then Mr. Rogers goes on to say :

His Excellency further added that our failure to act in the past had prejudiced our claim for extension westward.

Well, Sir, I cannot conceive how the Papal ablegate, or anybody else, could have stated that the failure of the province of Manitoba to amend the School Act prevented the extension of its boundaries westward, and that if such had been done it would have facilitated this extension. I cannot conceive how it is possible that such a statement could have been made, considering the fact that since the month of July, 1896, when we came into office, up to the month of January, 1905, we never received from the government of Manitoba a communication asking for the extension of the boundaries of that province. There may have been resolutions passed by the legislature, asking for the extension, of their boundaries ; I do not know. I am told there have