

Mr. FISHER. I should take it that the report would cover the fiscal year, that it would be presented to the government like any other departmental report and would be laid on the table in accordance with the Act. As no report can be made to parliament this session it would be presented at the next session of parliament.

Mr. FOSTER. Perhaps the Prime Minister would look into the matter.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have already looked into the matter. The other day, when my hon. friend inquired for the report of the Civil Service Commissioners, I sent over at once and asked the commissioners to come to my office, which they did. When informed of the request of my hon. friend they did not anticipate that they were called upon to make a report. I cannot express any opinion on the matter but I asked Mr. Shortt, and Mr. Larochelle whether, according to their interpretation, of the Act they were bound to put such a report on the table this session.

POST OFFICE RETURNS—RE-APPOINTMENTS, &c.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Murphy) to call the attention of the Post Office Department to the fact that they have sent in an incomplete report in answer to an order. The Post Office Department must be bigger than to have made only twelve appointments, no promotions, and only one transfer.

Mr. LEMIEUX (Postmaster General). During the year?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, according to the report.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I will inquire into it.

BRAZILIAN ELECTRO STEEL AND SMELTING CO.

House in committee on Bill (No. 10) respecting the Brazilian Electro Steel and Smelting Co.—Mr. Pardee.

Mr. SPROULE. It seems to me to be a bad policy for this parliament to incorporate companies designed to operate in foreign countries, and to give them powers which they are to exercise subject to the laws of the country in which they operate. I have always thought this was one of the devices adopted by a certain class of people to raise money out of their friends at home to be invested in foreign countries where it is quite impossible for the parties who furnish the money to have any intelligent oversight of its expenditure. We have two or three Bills on the Order Paper to incorporate such companies at the present time. They are first incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies' Act, then they come here for an Act of Incorporation, and without a very

Mr. FOSTER.

close analysis of the measure we do not know whether we may or may not be giving them power which it is unwise to give them. It seems to me there ought to be some one connected with the government who would look into these Bills very carefully, because I am afraid their effect is very often to mislead innocent public who are induced to put money into these enterprises and who sometimes lose their money. These companies should be incorporated in the countries in which they are going to operate.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. We have generally referred these Bills to special committees and have accepted their reports. The suggestion made by the hon. gentleman may be very proper, and I have no desire to combat it at the moment, but I have no doubt all this will be looked into by the committee before the Bill is allowed to pass.

Mr. SPROULE. I was on that committee for a considerable time, and I remember that the committee paid little attention to these Bills because it was contended that when such a Bill got a second reading the principle was adopted and that all that remained for the committee was to consider the clauses.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is undoubtedly true with regard to a public Bill, but it is certainly not so in the case of a private Bill. The first question put on a private Bill is whether the preamble shall pass, and that is the first thing the committee has to deal with.

Bill reported, read the third time, and passed.

THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 15) respecting the Mexican Land and Irrigation Co.—Mr. Pardee.

LAKE SUPERIOR BRANCH GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC.

Mr. TURRIFF moved the second reading of Bill (No. 30) respecting the subsidy from the Ontario government to Lake Superior branch of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. TURRIFF. This is a Bill to confirm an agreement made between the Ontario government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, and contained in chapter 18 of the Ontario statutes of 1904. Section 21 of that Act provides that the Grand Trunk Pacific Company shall come before this parliament and get an Act to confirm the agreement. This Bill is introduced at the request of the Ontario government and to carry out that arrangement. It applies particularly to sections 3 and 22 of the Ontario Act.

Mr. JOHN HAGGART. What is section 3?