

to hope that the best traditions, the honour and dignity and the integrity of the House will be always preserved and maintained.

ADJOURNMENT—ALASKAN BOUNDARY AWARD.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Before the House adjourns, might I put a question to my right hon. friend. I understood that all the correspondence and papers relating to the Alaskan boundary question were to have been printed and distributed during the recess. That, I believe, has not been done, and I would be glad to know from my right hon. friend when these papers will be placed before the House. I believe they have already been laid before the imperial parliament, but there are not copies available for the members of this House with the exception of two or three in the library.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I may inform my hon. friend that a portion of the papers is now in the hands of the printers and will be down probably this week. Later on I expect to bring down another batch of the same correspondence.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, March 11, 1904.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

A Message was delivered by Ernest J. Chambers, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:

Mr. SPEAKER—I am commanded to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General desires and awaits the attendance of your honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly the House went into the Senate Chamber.

And the House being returned.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the judges selected for the trial of election petitions, pursuant to 'The Dominion Controverted Elections Act,' certificates and reports relating to the elections:—

For the electoral district of the North Riding of the county of Ontario; and

For the electoral district of the North Riding of the county of Grey.

by which the said election petitions were dismissed.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 1) respecting the administration of Oaths of Office.—Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier (Prime Minister.)

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of parliament, a copy of which is as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In again meeting you in parliament, it is our first duty to express our heartfelt thanks to a beneficent Providence for the abundant harvest with which the country has been favoured during the past year, and for the general prosperity that prevails in all parts of the Dominion.

It is very gratifying to note that the yearly increasing trade of Canada, which has been so marked a feature of the past six years, gives no indication of any abatement, while the number of settlers seeking homes in Manitoba and the Territories is without a parallel in the history of the country. These two very important facts lead irresistibly to the conclusion that long before the Transcontinental Railway, authorized by parliament at its last session, can possibly be completed, its urgent necessity as a medium for carrying the products of the west to our own Atlantic ports will have become apparent, independently of the many benefits that will follow from the opening up for colonization and for various enterprises of the northern parts of Quebec and Ontario.

The agreement made with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company regarding a new transcontinental railway, contained certain stipulations which in effect required the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada to become a party to that agreement and to assume heavy obligations in respect thereof.

Further consideration of the agreement by the representatives of the Grand Trunk Railway Company and my government has resulted in showing the desirability of certain amendments to the contract which, having been approved by my government and subsequently by the board of directors and the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, will be submitted to you for ratification.

The sum of \$5,000,000 in cash has been deposited in the Bank of Montreal in accordance with the provisions contained in the original and supplemental agreements with the company. A Militia Bill will be introduced containing several important amendments to the present law rendered necessary by the growth of the force and calculated to promote its efficiency.

A copy of the award defining the boundary between the Dominion and Alaska, and other papers connected with the controversy, will be laid before you.

In view of the widely extended settlements now forming in the Territories, it will become necessary to increase the strength of the Northwest Mounted Police Force, and authority will be asked for that purpose.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts of the past year will be laid before you. I am glad to say that the revenue