

der the protective system. There are certain raw materials which are free. Wool is free; thank Heaven they have not thought of taxing it. Cotton is free also, but is iron free? Cotton is a raw material, and wool is a raw material for certain manufactures, but there are two articles which are raw material of every manufacturer, and these articles are coal and iron, and are they free? If you have a revenue tariff the object will be to develop the country, and all raw material should be free under such a tariff."

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I must tell my hon. friend that notwithstanding every desire I have to oblige him, I am afraid I shall not be able to gratify his rather fastidious curiosity. I am forced to make the painful admission that my memory, which I had the weakness of supposing pretty good, is not equal to the task of remembering, word for word, a speech delivered more than eighteen months ago.

Mr. FOSTER. That must have been a moment of weakness.

THE TRENT CANAL.

Mr. HUGHES asked,

Has the contract for that section of the Trent Canal from Lake Simcoe to the point where the first section of the Balsam Lake to Lake Simcoe division meets the Talbot River, been let, in accordance with the advertisements calling for tenders for the same?

2. If not, why not?

3. Is it the intention of the Government meantime to abandon the enterprise?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). 1. No; the contract has not been let. 2. Because the receiving of tenders has been postponed. 3. No such decision has been reached, but the matter of entering into new contracts is under consideration.

ELECTORAL FRANCHISE ACT.

Mr. INGRAM asked,

Whether it is the intention of the Government to repeal the Electoral Franchise Act, and if so, when?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I have already answered that question.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S WARRANTS.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I desire to ask the Minister of Finance if he will be good enough to lay on the Table of the House, without a formal motion, the Orders in Council under the authority of which these Governor General's Warrants were issued a return of which has just been brought down; and also the report of the Minister of Justice upon the application for the Governor General's Warrants. I do not think it is necessary to make a formal motion; that is a courtesy which will be readily accorded.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I shall be very glad to place on the Table any documents of the nature referred to by the hon. gentleman, at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. FOSTER. Would he be good enough to have the ten days' statement laid on the Table of the House, commencing the first of the month.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes.

THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the leader of the Government whether he has considered the urgent appeal which I made to have the correspondence between the Governor General and myself, as the leader of the late Government at the time of its resignation, laid upon the Table of the House, in order that it may be under our observation in connection with the debate on the Address.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I have, Mr. Speaker, and I have seen no reason to depart from the decision which I intimated to the hon. gentleman the other day. My intention is to have this correspondence laid upon the Table of the House immediately after the passage of the Address, and to have it printed, so that it can be in the hands of all the members of the House before it comes up for discussion.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. McINNES. Before proceeding to discuss the matters which are referred to in the Speech from the Throne, I wish to acknowledge the compliment which is paid by the Government to British Columbia upon this occasion, in selecting a representative from that province to take part in the preliminary proceedings of this Parliament. This is the first occasion upon which this honour has been done to my province; and although it is a mere honour, and as such is of little practical importance, yet, Sir, I hope I am justified in regarding the circumstance as evidence that at last we have a Government in power in this country that recognizes the importance of, and is prepared to pursue a policy of generous treatment towards that great far west. Unfortunately, the Government which has controlled the affairs of this country in the past, has not given that considerate treatment to the west which its importance and its probable future entitled it to. With respect to their general trade policy, it militated against the development of the west; it handicapped those who were engaged in