

Copies of all letters and papers relating to the dismissal of James Currie and Sylvain Wedge, trackmen on the Prince Edward Island Railway. —(Mr. Hackett.)

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.20 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 1st September, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S WARRANTS.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). With the consent of the House, I wish to submit the following motion :—

That all returns presented to the House, under the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, relating to Governor General's warrants since 1888, be printed immediately, and that rule 94 be suspended in relation thereto.

I understand that the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) has already obtained an order of the House for the printing of the papers relating to the Governor General's warrants which have been laid on the Table, and I think it is desirable, for the purpose of comparison that a similar statement should be had for a few years past.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am afraid the result of that would be to suspend the printing of papers which have special reference to a special case, and it does not appear to me at all necessary to the discussion of the question before the House to have the papers the hon. gentleman requests.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I do not think this motion can cause any delay in the printing of the other papers, and need not delay at all the discussion of the special warrants, whenever the hon. gentleman chooses to discuss that question.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understand that the hon. leader of the House undertakes that there shall be no delay caused by this addition to the motion.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). An order of the House has already issued for the other papers, and I presume they are being printed. I do not see how this motion can possibly delay them. It may be that the information I desire may be a little delayed, but the order already issued is now in course of execution.

Mr. HACKETT.

### FAST STEAMSHIP LINE.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call the attention of the hon. the leader of the House to a very important question which is agitating the public mind at this moment, as the hon. gentleman is aware, and that is the fast line service. It appears to me that in a question of such importance and on which there has been some difference of opinion expressed in the press as to the actual facts, it is very desirable that all the papers connected with it should be laid upon the Table. It would take some time to give notice of a formal resolution, and I, therefore, ask if my hon. friend will undertake that all the papers on that question shall, so far as it is gone, be submitted to the House.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I am very glad my hon. friend has drawn my attention to that. My hon. friend is aware that negotiations are going on with the Imperial authorities. I shall be in a position, in a day or two, to tell my hon. friend whether we can lay on the Table those papers. I am anxious myself that they should be brought down.

### SUPPLY—DISMISSALS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding): That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, the question that was raised by my hon. colleague from the county of Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is one which naturally interests a great number of people throughout the Dominion. In every contest there is a great division of feeling among the political parties as to what should or should not be the course of conduct of those gentlemen who hold office in the service of their country. Very often, a man who is deeply attached to his party and who feels that he holds office as a reward for party services, does not know how to conduct himself in the great contests that periodically recur and determine which party will dominate the country. To my mind, the great motive that should guide us in considering this question is the desire to promote the public interest; and I learned with considerable regret from the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Davies) that the line laid down for his guidance was that he would dismiss any official whom he found taking an active part upon the platform or abusing himself, his leader, his party or the principles of that party. The proposition that officials should be dismissed who are not satisfactory to the public, who either have neglected their duties in order to serve their party, or who did not give good service to the country, is one which cannot be con-