

will be brought before the House for consideration.

Mr. BORDEN. I have already informed the right hon. leader of the opposition that within a week from to-day we will give full information of the government's programme.

Mr. DEVLIN. May I ask the Prime Minister if the government have agreed on a policy in regard to the building of the Georgian Bay canal?

Mr. PELLETIER. I may inform my hon. friend that I did not open my mouth last night on the Georgian Bay canal.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is a very sad commentary on the ministerial press.

Mr. PELLETIER. They have been badly educated by the Grit press.

THE WRIT FOR SOUTH RENFREW.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I see that the Postmaster General and the Minister of Agriculture have been enlightening the electors of South Renfrew; so I assume that the writ for South Renfrew has been issued.

Mr. BORDEN. My right hon. friend must not assume too much. As a matter of fact, I expect to take up that matter tomorrow.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Then I will renew my question on Monday.

SUPPLY—INTERCOLONIAL TRADE.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds) moved that the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. EMMERSON. As I notice that the Minister of Agriculture is not in his seat, I would like to call the attention of my right hon. friend the leader of the government to the matter of the payment of the balances due the census enumerators. I have a letter received to-day stating that the enumerators in the county of Westmorland have not yet received the balance due them.

Mr. BORDEN. I am very glad that my hon. friend has brought the matter to my attention. It is apparently a departmental matter and consequently it is impossible for me to give any opinion, but I will take the earliest opportunity to bring it to the attention of my colleague the Minister of Agriculture and I am sure he will attend to it at once. I agree in what my hon. friend has said about the desirability of having payments made at the earliest possible moment.

TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE WEST INDIAN ISLANDS AND AUSTRALIA.

Hon. WM. PUGSLEY (St. John City). I desire to draw attention to some matters

Mr. DEVLIN.

connected with the negotiations for the improvements of trade relations between Canada and the West Indian Islands and Australia. I do not propose to take up much time for the reason that so far as this side of the House is concerned, our belief in the desirability of improved trade relations between Canada and the British West Indies, as well as between Canada and Australia, is proved by documents which have been laid on the table and by the fact, which no doubt every hon. member knows, that in every reasonable way Canada has given encouragement for trade between herself and those countries. I would like, before proceeding with my remarks, to ask my hon. friend, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster) if the steamship service between Canada and the West Indies remains in the same condition as that in which it was when the present government came into office? Shortly after the opening of the session I called the attention of my hon. friend to the fact that Messrs. Pickford & Black, the contractors for the West Indian service, had declined, during last year and while the late government was in office, to continue the service any longer under the then existing arrangement, and a temporary arrangement was made by the late Minister of Trade and Commerce which was exceedingly unsatisfactory to the business men of St. John who were doing business with the British West Indies. As the result of that temporary arrangement, the service to Halifax was to be one in every eleven days and to St. John one only in twenty-two days. The people of St. John have been for a number of years striving very earnestly to develop trade with the British West Indies, and have been fairly successful. It came to them, therefore, as a great disappointment when this reduction was announced so far as St. John was concerned. Representatives of the Board of Trade brought the matter to my notice and I took it up with the late Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and he informed me he would take energetic measures to have the service improved and give satisfaction to the business men of St. John. But the calamity happened to the country on the 21st of September of the defeat of the late government, and the late Minister of Trade and Commerce was not able to pursue the matter any further. I would like to ask the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster) if anything has been done?

Mr. FOSTER (Toronto). The matter remains exactly where it was left by the old minister.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is unfortunate that the whole of this winter shall be allowed to pass away without anything being done