

ing Committees of this House under rule 10, said Committee to be composed of Messieurs Reid (Grenville), Calder, McCurdy, Middlebro, King, Lemieux and Crerar, and that that portion of rule 10 limiting the number of members of the said committee be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

REPORTS

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer in conformity with the Dominion Elections Act.—Mr. Speaker.

Joint Report of the Librarians of Parliament.—Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Sergeant-at-Arms, with my approval, has appointed Louis Charles Panet, Esquire, to be his deputy during the present session of Parliament.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to present a communication from His Excellency the Governor General approving a minute of the Privy Council appointing Right Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice; Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways and Canals; Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration and Colonization and President of the Privy Council; and Hon. E. K. Spinney, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the Eleventh Chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, entitled "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

On motion of Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, the House adjourned at 3.50 p.m.

Tuesday, February 15 1920.

The House met at Three o'clock.

REPORTS TABLED

Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries; Annual Report of the Department of Naval Service.—Hon. C. C. Ballantyne.

Annual Report of the Department of Public Works.—Hon. F. B. McCurdy.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

On the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at this

time I desire, and I think the House would wish me to do so, to make some reference to the vacancies that have occurred in our midst by death since we last met together. The number whose loss we have to lament on this occasion is even larger than is usually the case, although seldom it is that we meet in these halls without having to lament the taking away of some of our members.

The first to whom I wish to refer is the late member for the electoral division of Medicine Hat, and Secretary of State, the Right Hon. Mr. Sifton. Mr. Sifton's services to his country were in a larger variety of fields and in posts of uniformly higher dignity than falls to the lot of most public men in Canada. He was first a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories; he was a member of the Territorial Government in the early life of that country; and subsequently was Chief Justice of the Northwest Territories. Following upon that and an intervening period during which he engaged in the practice of law, he again became Chief Justice of Alberta, and after that was Premier of his province. From that post of distinction he came to this House some three years and a half ago and has occupied three positions in the Cabinet of Canada, all with acceptability—indeed, with distinction. The dominant—or, at least, the most outstanding—characteristic of Mr. Sifton was the swiftness and directness of his intellect, the capacity he had for reaching to the centre of a problem at first grasp, and of coming to his conclusions surely and firmly and almost invariably correctly. In this House he was not often heard, and that was a matter of regret, I am sure, to us all; but when he spoke, what he said was a contribution to any discussion in which he took part. It was in the Council Chamber that he displayed his talents to the best advantage; it was there that the virility and energy of his mind stood out in such striking contrast to the quietness of his disposition and demeanour. I am sure I am only voicing the sentiments of all of us when I say that Canada has lost a distinguished servant and that his Colleagues have lost an able and most agreeable companion and co-worker.

The next hon. gentleman to whom I would refer is the late member for Yamaska, Mr. Gladu. With him I came less personally in contact, he being on the other side of the House, and not commingling here as much as some; but it was my duty and my pleasure