

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 26th May, 1898.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FOREIGN IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. **MACLEAN** asked,

1. How many Galicians, Ruthinians, or other foreigners from the continent of Europe settled in Canada last year?

2. How many of this class of immigrants settled in the Dominion from January 1st to May 15th, this year?

3. How many immigrants from the British Isles settled in Canada last year?

4. How many immigrants from the British Isles settled in the Dominion from January 1st to May 15th, this year?

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). 1. 8,563 Galicians, Ruthinians and other foreigners from the continent of Europe arrived in Canada and declared their intention of settling in this country last year. 2. 2,267 of this class of immigrants arrived and declared their intention of settling in the Dominion between the 1st January and 30th April this year, the latter being the latest date up to which the department has complete returns. 3. 10,741 immigrants from the British Isles arrived and declared their intention of settling in Canada last year. 4. 2,949 immigrants from the British Isles arrived and declared their intention of settling in the Dominion between the 1st January and the 30th April this year, the latter being the latest date up to which the department has complete returns.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved:

That for the remainder of the session the House shall hold two sittings on each day, one from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., and the second from 3 p.m. until the hour of adjournment, and at each such sitting Government Orders shall have precedence.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I want to call my hon. friend's attention to the fact that one or two important sittings of the Public Accounts Committee will yet be necessary in order to finish investigations that have actually been commenced. I suggest whether or not it should go into effect at the time proposed, or whether it should not be postponed a couple of days, and I think my hon. friend will make just as much progress in that way. I suggest that in view of the important committees now finishing investigations entered into, and which it is very im-

portant should be finished, the motion should not go into effect as proposed. Leaving those investigations as they are, in an unfinished state, would be unjust to parties who have been summoned, and the time mentioned in the motion should be delayed two or three days.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). We have thought that perhaps it might be possible that committees should meet at 10 a.m. and sit for one hour, and the business of the House commence at 11 o'clock. In this matter I am only desirous of consulting the wishes of my hon. friends opposite, and if my hon. friend thinks it would be better to postpone the date when the motion should go into effect, we will consent, but I hope he will consider the proposition I have made.

Mr. **FOSTER**. The committees are sitting now at 10 o'clock, and to sit one hour is absolutely no gain. It is my wish, and I know it is the wish of the hon. members who are prosecuting these inquiries to take up no more time than is absolutely necessary.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. Will the hon. gentleman consent to an amendment that the morning sittings commence next Monday?

Mr. **FOSTER**. Yes.

Mr. **CASEY**. I should like to ask the Government if it is not possible, by permission of the House, that some of these committees should sit during the forenoon session of the House? I think permission has been given in other sessions. There is important work before the Railway Committee, for example, in addition to the work before the Public Accounts Committee, to which the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) has adverted. Bills are before the Railway Committee which have gone through several stages, and it is hardly fair to the promoters that they should be deprived of the opportunity of getting them passed.

Mr. **BÉRGERON**. It is only a postponement of one day.

Mr. **CASEY**. I may refer to a Bill in my hands that has already passed the Senate, but which may be shut out if it does not get through the Railway Committee before Monday next. I beg leave to call the attention of the Government in regard to this proposal to the fact that unless important business before these Private Bills Committees is finished before next Monday, some arrangement should be made that routine business of that kind can be gone on with in the forenoon, although the House is sitting.

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. I would suggest to the right hon. the Premier and to the members of the House, that if after the committee sits, it is found there are opposed Bills that may go through this session, a motion might be made giving leave to the