

For a return showing, in respect of the election for the House of Commons, held in the county of Montcalm on the 26th of October, 1908, and in respect of each polling subdivision (a) the number of votes polled for each candidate; (b) the total number of valid votes polled; (c) the number of rejected ballots; (d) the number of spoiled ballots; (e) the number of voters on the revised voters' list; (f) the number of ballot papers in the possession of the deputy returning officer at the hour of the opening of the poll; (g) the number of ballot papers remaining unused in the hands of the deputy returning officer at the close of the poll; (h) the name and the address of the returning officer and the names and addresses of each of his deputies and poll clerks; (i) all correspondence between the government, or any officer thereof, and the returning officer, or any deputy returning officer or poll clerk or any candidate in respect of said election.—Mr. Ames.

For a return showing the amounts paid during the years 1903-1904, 1905-1906, and 1907-1908, by the following departments, (a) Marine and Fisheries, (b) Railways and Canals, (c) Customs, (d) Post Office, (e) Militia and Defence, and (f) Public Works, to the following persons, firms and companies, viz:—The Wilson Gas Buoys Company, the Canadian Fog Signal Company, James Murphy, William E. Blakiston, James Holliday, Allison Davie, J. B. Cote, Adolphe Huot, Joseph Samson, Samson & Filion, E. Pelletier, Napoléon Mercier, Séverin Martel, Michel Thibodeau, Edmond Bélanger & Co., Marier & Tremblay, Terreau & Racine, Rock City Tobacco Company, J. N. Martineau, George Marchand, Jean Drolet, Elie Amyot, Charles A. Parent, A. N. Melvin, W. G. Robertson, Wm. Robertson & Co., Howell & Co., St. John Iron Works, Charles McDonald, John A. Moore, Wm. J. Vroom, John A. McAvity, McAvity Bros., George McAvity, Patrick J. Mooney, Polson Bros. or Polson Iron Works, Merwin & Company, F. L. Brooks & Company, F. S. Brooks, Safety Company, Submarine Company, Wm. J. Allan and Mr. Willard.—Mr. S. Sharpe.

For a copy of the report of the Conciliation Board in connection with the freight clerks of Halifax and St. John.—Mr. Crosby.

For a return showing what amount of money has been expended by the government for printing in connection with immigration matters during the fiscal year 1908 and up to 1st March, 1909; the amount of money that that has been expended for advertising in newspapers for the same purpose; the names of the said newspapers and the amount paid to each; what pamphlets were issued, their names, from whom they were purchased, by whom published, and what prices were paid for each.—Mr. Uria Wilson.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance) delivered a message from the Governor General.

MR. SPEAKER read the message as follows:

GREY,

The Governor General presents to the House of Commons supplementary estimates of sums

required for the service of the Dominion for the year ending on the 31st of March, 1909, and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, the Governor General recommends these estimates to the House of Commons.

Government House,
March 15, 1909.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, His Excellency's message, together with the estimates, was referred to Committee of Supply.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier) moved:

That in the opinion of this House the system of election prevalent in this country fails to reflect, in our representative assemblies, correctly, and in accurate proportions, the currents of public opinion which should find expression by the votes of the electorate. It is therefore desirable to reform our electoral law, by the adoption of an improved method of proportional representation whereby the House of Commons may become the faithful expression of the will of the electors as manifested by their votes; that a select committee of this House be appointed to investigate the different systems of proportional representation adopted or suggested elsewhere, as an improvement upon our present methods of election, with power to extend said inquiry to all the various forms of the proportional representation laws proposed or in force.

He said: I deem it, Mr. Speaker, a privilege to have this opportunity of placing before the House, in support of the motion you have just read, some explanatory observations upon a subject which has engrossed the attention of public men in all democratic countries for the past quarter of a century. It is a large subject, but, however extensive its scope, I will endeavour to curtail my remarks as much as possible. I feel that the reforms which I have in view cannot be carried out immediately. I feel also that my present object ought to be merely to draw the attention of parliament and the country to the duty which now seems to be put upon us, in common with all other free peoples, of examining the anomalies and the abuses which have rendered these reforms necessary and even urgent, and in this manner helping towards a trial of some of the reforms which I am about to suggest—a trial which might be made in our own country, and which would serve to preserve our institutions from what I think might be termed complete ruin and failure. No one, I suppose, will deny that representative institutions all over the world have proved a comparative failure. Admissions of this fact can be found in the books of all writers of every nation who have treated this important subject within the past twenty or twenty-five years.