

upon the committee was that there could have been a much better settlement made with the Indians in the interest of the Indian himself and in the interest of Selkirk. The surrender itself was a good one, it was what the people of Selkirk wanted, but I do not think the interests of Selkirk were taken into account in the details of that surrender. We had three or four hundred Indians living along the river, some of them fairly well off and every one of them a wage earner and they spent their money in the town of Selkirk. Now this land has passed into the hands of large owners, the capitalists have got it, and they are holding it for a very high price so that the land will lie idle along that river for many years to come, and when it is settled there will not likely be one settler where there were 100 before. While I am on my feet, I want to say that the minister knows we have on Lake Winnipeg a number of Galicians settled on land which is utterly unfit for any human beings to make a living out of. To my mind the wise policy of the government would have been when they secured that surrender to sell the reserve on 20 year or 30 year payments to these Galicians. These people are developing into an excellent class of settlers and they would have been a credit to that part of the country, and a great help to the town of Selkirk. I regret very much that the surrender was put through in the manner in which it was, and I think if the minister had to put it through again it would not go through on the same lines.

Some resolutions reported.

On motion of Mr. Fisher, House adjourned at 11.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, February 15, 1909.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Report of the Department of the Interior for the year ended March 31, 1908.—Mr. Oliver.

FISHING BOUNTY.

On the orders of the day being called:

Mr. CROSBY. I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur) if it is not a fact that all the fishing districts in the county of Halifax are without the blank form required to be filled up in making application for the fishing bounty

for last year, that the money should have been paid before this?

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not know anything about the matter, but I will inquire from the officers of the department and inform my hon. friend.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If the minister should find that there has been delay, such as my hon. friend from Halifax has mentioned, would he be good enough to inform him as to what is the cause of the delay?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. These blanks should have been filled in between April and August last but they have not yet been supplied and information is desired as to the cause of the delay?

Mr. BRODEUR. I will get the information and give it to my hon. friend.

REMOVAL OF PLANKS FROM HIGHWAYS.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Graham) if the report in the western papers is true to the effect that the Board of Railway Commissioners has issued an order forbidding railways, during winter, to remove planks from the public highways at crossings?

Mr. GRAHAM. I have heard nothing whatever about it.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. It is reported in the Winnipeg newspapers.

INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. PERLEY. I would like to ask the right hon. the leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) whether they intend to bring in an Insurance Bill this session, and if so, when; as I think it is very necessary that we should know as quickly as possible.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It is expected that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) will be here in a few days and then perhaps I will be able to answer the question of my hon. friend.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION REPORT.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask if the Civil Service Commission have presented their report yet, as required by the Act?

Mr. FISHER. That report does not come down until the end of the fiscal year, and the report of the commission as to their operations this year will not be due until next session.

Mr. FOSTER. It seems that, having been appointed on the 1st September, 1908, they ought to give their report as required by the Act.