

the policy of the present government than ever they were before. Factories are filled with orders, shops are working overtime, work is more plentiful, wages have increased, and the demands for labour are increasing everywhere. Such are the conditions of things under an honest and economical management of the best government that Canada has ever had.

Mr. CRAIG moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, April 26, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### THE FIRE IN HULL AND OTTAWA.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, we meet to-day under very sad circumstances. The terrible fire which is now raging, has already destroyed part of the city of Hull and part of the city of Ottawa, and at this moment, millions of dollars' worth of property have gone up in smoke. Amongst other calamities, I understand, the electric light works and all other light works have been destroyed, which will make it impossible for this House to sit. Therefore, I see no option for us but to adjourn for some days. Therefore, with the concurrence of the House, I move, seconded by the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that when this House adjourns, it stand adjourned until Tuesday next. In the meantime, I may say, my colleague, the acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Mulock), has done what he could, to assist in preventing the spread of this terrible calamity. This forenoon, when it became evident that the fire was dangerous, the following telegram was sent to the mayors of Montreal, Peterborough and Brockville:

Please send to Ottawa by special train, at government expense, whatever fire appliances

Mr. RATZ.

and other assistance you can spare to help in fighting disastrous conflagration here. Most urgent. Fire spreading with dangerous rapidity.

(Signed) WILLIAM MULOCK,  
Acting M. P. W.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). The calamity which has befallen the sister city, and which is threatening Ottawa, is of such a nature that, in my opinion, the government are quite right in moving the adjournment of the House. It seems to me, as it does to the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), that it is impossible that we should meet, from the fact that all the power houses are destroyed. I would like to make one suggestion—though, probably, the matter has been attended to. I would ask the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), if he would not consider that it would be right and proper to call out the volunteers.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron), will be glad to know that that was done about four hours ago.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I am glad of it, but thought I would suggest it in case it had not been done.

Motion agreed to.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.20 p.m.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, May 1, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### PORTAGE DU FORT AND FRENCH RIVER RAILWAY.

Mr. SUTHERLAND moved that the fees paid on Bill (No. 97) to incorporate the Portage du Fort and French River Railway Company be refunded, less cost of printing and translation, according to the recommendation contained in the eleventh report of the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.

Motion agreed to.