

advantage of the law and instead of appointing a commission issued a commission to members of the legislature, the representatives of the people, to make an investigation. They made a very thorough investigation of this question and when parliament was almost in sight of its annual session I contend that it was the duty of the government to await the meeting of this House and to come to this House and say that they intended to appoint a special committee of the House to investigate this insurance question. I still believe that a parliamentary committee is better for the purposes of an investigation than a formal commission like the royal commission which has been appointed to investigate the insurance question. We all know what royal commissions have been in the past. They are limited in their scope, they have resorted to the methods of the courts, whereas, if we had a parliamentary committee with the fullest scope that could be given to it in this direction, it could elicit the facts under the ordinary rules of business. I do not see that this action of the government is one to be approved; rather is it to be condemned and especially to be condemned on the part of liberals who always contended that royal commissions were objectionable and that parliamentary committees were the proper tribunals to investigate matters of this kind.

As to what the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has said as to a November session, I believe the great bulk of public opinion will be favourable to it. Certainly a great many of the members in this House will not object to a session in November. As far as that announcement is concerned I have no objection to raise, but I do now, on behalf of 400,000 policy holders in this country who own 800,000 policies, protest against this method of investigating the affairs of the insurance companies of Canada in view of the revelations made in the state of New York and in view of the excellent work done by the committee of the legislature. I protest against that investigation being handed over to a royal commission instead of being reserved to a parliamentary committee.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 4.15 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, March 9, 1906.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister), moved.—

That a special committee of seven members be appointed to prepare and report, with all  
Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.

convenient speed, a list of members to form the select standing committees ordered by this House yesterday, such select committee to be composed of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. R. L. Borden, Mr. Paterson, Mr. Hyman, Mr. Haggart, Mr. Calvert and Mr. Taylor.

Motion agreed to.

### INSURANCE COMMISSION.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. By command of His Excellency the Governor General, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Order in Council adopted on the 28th of February ordering an investigation into life insurance and a copy of the commission issued to the commissioners appointed under said order.

### ADJOURNMENT—INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER (North Toronto). Before the House adjourns I would like to ask the government, or, at least, two of the members of the government, if the returns ordered last spring, or early in the summer, and which we were not so fortunate as to have brought down before the close of the session, but which the ministers promised should be made ready during the interim, have been prepared and are ready to be laid on the table. One of these returns related to the Department of the Minister of Public Works. It was quite a lengthy report. For the preparation of it the minister asked a considerable time, which, of course, was not unreasonable. I asked the hon. gentleman, if possible, to have it ready before the beginning of this session. I presume that it is now ready and will be laid on the table soon. The other return related to the Department of the Interior. The motion for this return, passed last year, was for a list of those to whom timber licenses, leases, &c., had been granted. I hope that this will be brought down very early. I would like also to ask the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Oliver) if he is ready to lay on the table or will soon be ready to lay on the table, the report on the scrip inquiry, and whether the evidence taken at that inquiry is to be placed at the disposal of members.

Hon. C. S. HYMAN (Minister of Public Works). I may say in regard to the return to which the hon. Mr. Foster refers that I will be ready to lay it on the table of the House on Monday.

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior). The papers in connection with the scrip inquiry are ready to be brought down, and can be laid on the table at any time.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the evidence be included?