

opinion of the community. It will be on one side or the other side of politics. Whether we are to have an elective system or not—and I would favour it very much—it is not free from the difficulties and the objections which have been mentioned by my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Nickle) but it is a question which is worthy of very serious consideration. I believe that if a committee were appointed, whether they decide in favour of an elective system or another system, or whether they decide a favour of the present system of appointment by the Crown, they would perhaps find it proper to recommend that the appointment should not be for life but for a stated period, say seven years, or perhaps ten or eleven years. There is a certain amount of work in a man and it is better that the members of a body of this kind should be replaced from time to time. What to do with the present members of the Senate is another question but I think we have a very wise precedent in that which was adopted by the Canadian Legislature in 1854. On the whole, I wish to express my satisfaction again to my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce that he has not closed the debate but that he has agreed that it should be adjourned and that it may be resumed. I favour having the matter referred to a select body to give us the benefit of their thought and consideration. I do not believe there is much to be gained by calling witnesses, but if you have men who can give us the benefit of their thought, experience, study and reading appointed to a committee of this kind, I believe that they would certainly be able to furnish us with a very valuable report upon the subject.

On motion of Sir George Foster the debate was adjourned.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

#### After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

#### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

On motion of Mr. Bickerdike, That in the opinion of this House, the best interests of this young nation would be conserved by amending the Criminal Code so as to abolish the death penalty in Canada in so far at least as it applies to women and children.

Mr. SPEAKER: I find that I shall have to rule that this motion is out of order. Bourinot, at page 328, says:

[Sir Wilfrid Laurier.]

It is an ancient rule of Parliament that no question or motion can regularly be offered if it is substantially the same with one on which a judgment of the House has already been expressed during the current session.

This subject in all its phases was fully discussed on the second reading of Bill No. 83, to amend the Criminal Code, introduced by the hon. member for the St. Lawrence division of Montreal (Mr. Bickerdike). The abolition of capital punishment as it applies to women and children was included in the objects of that Bill. The resolution of the hon. member is therefore out of order.

#### SEED GRAIN—EASTERN CANADA.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. C. A. GAUVREAU (Temiscouata): I would like to ask if there is any foundation for a statement which I find in L'Evenement, of Quebec, of Thursday last, as follows:

Owing to the foresight of the Federal Government, 400,000 bushels of seed grain has been purchased in the West for distribution throughout the eastern provinces. This grain has been inspected and selected by the Government inspectors from Ottawa, having at their head Mr. J. A. Simard, of Quebec. One million bushels of grain has been so inspected and nearly half of it will be allotted to the eastern provinces. Fifteen carloads have already been shipped into the Lake St. John district.

I should like to know if there is any foundation for the statement in L'Evenement.

Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Solicitor General): This matter properly comes under the Department of Agriculture, and I shall therefore make no reply beyond saying that I am aware that last summer a commission was appointed to take in hand the seed grain situation in the West. That commission had certain purchasing powers with regard to seed grain, the intention being to prevent the draining of the country of seedable wheat in particular, and also other grains. I shall bring the matter to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, who will further answer the hon. member to-morrow.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Did I understand that that commission was empowered to deal with the seed grain question in the West, not in the East?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The commission was composed of Mr. Wilson of Indian Head, Mr. Govan of the same place, and Mr. Morrison of Winnipeg. Thus its personnel was western. I do not think the terms of the Order