

like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) if he would be good enough to give to the House at some early opportunity, if he cannot do so to-day, information as to the present condition of the negotiations, if there be any negotiations, for the erection of an hotel on a portion of the grounds of parliament. The Prime Minister will recollect that an order in council was passed some weeks before the commencement of last session by which a portion of Major's Hill park was proposed to be conveyed to the Grand Trunk Railway Company for the purpose of the erection of an hotel thereupon. The matter seemed to be of some urgency because the consent of parliament was not asked in the first instance and a Bill had to be passed afterwards for the purpose of ratifying what the government had done. According to the present conditions there would not seem to have been any great urgency for dealing with the matter before parliament assembled, because, so far as I can see, the only thing since accomplished has been the construction of a fence, no doubt of a very artistic and beautiful design on the land. I presume that is not intended as the hotel. If it were, I should be inclined to suggest that it should at least be roofed in. I most sincerely hope there will never be a hotel erected there, but inasmuch as the matter was regarded as one of urgency, we should have some explanation why that particular step was taken as nothing whatever has been done since. I am not aware that the conveyance of the property has ever been laid on the table. If any such conveyance has been made, it should be laid on the table at the earliest possible moment together with a statement of all the conditions, if any, imposed by the government on the corporation, whether in the terms of the conveyance itself or otherwise, so that the House should be made acquainted at the earliest possible moment with the actual conditions as the matter now stands.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think I can gratify the curiosity of my hon. friend. Nothing has been done since last session when the Bill was passed.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Where, then, was the urgency?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It was the need of a hotel.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Yet nothing has been done.

THE MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.

Mr. FOSTER. Is my right hon. friend in a position to give us any information as to when the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Templeman) is likely to take his seat in the House?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. On this point I cannot gratify the curiosity of my hon. friend. He is much more inquisitive than his neighbour and upon a more delicate subject. The Minister of Inland Revenue has had a misfortune which has happened to other members of former governments to which I think my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) is not a stranger. My hon. friend is not as sympathetic as he should be.

Mr. FOSTER. One more question. Would my right hon. friend be able at all to satisfy the laudable curiosity of the House as to whether the commercial negotiations in that regard are progressing favourably?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not know what my hon. friend means. If he means anything which is in his line of thought, it is not in our line of thought at all.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. More likely in your line of action.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 4 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, January 22, 1909.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

RESIGNATION OF WILLIAM SLOAN, ESQ., M.P.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from William Sloan, Esq., his resignation as member for the Electoral District of Comox-Atlin. I accordingly issued my warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to make out a new writ of election for the said Electoral District.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

Final Report of the Survey of the Georgian Bay Ship Canal, with plans, estimates of cost and 56 plates.—Hon. Wm. Pugsley.

The report was ordered to be printed forthwith.

Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs for 1907-8.—Hon. Frank Oliver.

Report of the investigation by Mr. Justice Cassels concerning the Department of Marine and Fisheries.—Hon. L. P. Brodeur.

The report was ordered to be printed forthwith.

Report of the Secretary of State for 1907; also, Civil Service List of Canada for 1908.—Hon. Chas. Murphy.