

The PRIME MINISTER moved:

That the said address be engrossed and to be presented to His Excellency the Governor General by such members of the House as are of the hon. the Privy Council.

Motion agreed to.

#### CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved:

That Peter Macdonald, Esquire, member representing the electoral district of East Huron, be appointed Chairman of Committees of the Whole House.

Motion agreed to.

#### SUPPLY—AUDITOR GENERAL'S AND OTHER REPORTS.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. Mr. Fielding) moved:

That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee to consider of a Supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to ask the Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding) when he expects to bring the estimates down?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Very shortly.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). And may I ask when we are to expect the Auditor General's Report?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am afraid I shall have to make further inquiry on that point. We are pressing it forward by all possible means, but at my last inquiry the document was not complete. I shall be able to tell my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) at the next sitting.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). With the indulgence of the House, I would like to ask whether the hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Fielding) suggests that we should go into supply before the Auditor General's Report is down. I think it would be very inconvenient to do so—I can hardly see, at present, how it will be possible to do so. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will be able to give us to-morrow the date when we may expect the Auditor General's Report.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I will do my best to give the hon. gentleman a statement to-morrow. Meantime, the formal steps with respect to supply, taken at the first of the session, are being taken; and, within a day or two, we will let the hon. gentleman know what further steps will be taken.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I would like to ask the Prime Minister (the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in what

state the departmental reports are. The lateness of these reports last year delayed the business of the House for months. It is inconvenient, in fact it is impossible, to properly discuss the estimates and to reach conclusions with regard to the matters that come before us, until we have these reports. If these reports come before the House at an early day, it will be a gratification to us on this side to assist the government to put through the business of the House as promptly as possible.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend (Mr. Wallace) will find no cause of complaint on that score.

Motion (Hon. Mr. Fielding) agreed to.

#### WAYS AND MEANS.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. Mr. Fielding) moved:

That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY—THE ESTIMATES.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. Mr. Fielding) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, as follows:—

MINTO.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, estimates of sums required for the service of the Dominion for the year ending June 30, 1902, and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, the Governor General recommends these estimates to the House of Commons.

Government House,

Ottawa, February 11, 1901.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved:

That the Message of His Excellency and the estimates be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Motion agreed to.

#### REPORTS.

The public accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900.—Hon. Mr. Fielding.

The report of the Post Office Department for the year ending June 30, 1900.—Hon. Mr. Mulock.

The report of the Department of the Interior for the year ending June 30, 1900.—Hon. Mr. Sifton.

The report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the year ending June 30, 1900.—Hon. Mr. Sifton.