

Motion agreed, Bill read the first and second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT—GOVERNMENT SYSTEM OF TENDERS

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. CLARKE. I beg to call the attention of the government to the following cablegram which appears in the Ottawa 'Free Press' of this evening :

INJUSTICE IS OBVIOUS.

Canadian Method of Calling for Tenders Might be Better.

London, Aug. 8th.—The 'Graphic' to-day referring to the manner in which Canada invites tenders, says that the injustice of the arrangement is so obvious that the government can hardly fail to redress the grievance.

Is the Minister of Finance aware of what tenders this cablegram refers to ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No. I am not able to answer my hon. friend.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. What is the business for to-morrow ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. According to notice the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Bill will come up on the resolution on which the Bill is founded.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. Is there any notice that you will proceed with it de die in diem ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There has been no formal notice, but I think that is the intention of the Prime Minister.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The Prime Minister so stated this afternoon.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It was so stated to-day, I am informed.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.10 a.m., Tuesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, August 11, 1903.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. HYMAN moved :

That the following committees have leave to sit during the time that the House is in session : The Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, the Select Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Motion agreed to.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 244) respecting the Western Assurance Company.

NATIONAL TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved that the House go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution :

Resolved, that it is expedient, in connection with the Bill now before this House, respecting the construction of a National Transcontinental Railway, to ratify the agreement set forth in the schedule to the said Bill, entered into on the 28th of July, 1903, between the government and certain persons on behalf of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, a company to be incorporated by parliament at the present session thereof, and to authorize the government to do whatever is necessary to give full effect to the said Bill and agreement.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier).

Hon. A. G. BLAIR (St. John city). I do not, Mr. Speaker, find myself in any less unpleasant a position to-day than I occupied some two or three weeks ago in explaining the causes of my resignation from the ministry. It is a disagreeable task under any circumstances to criticise and perhaps condemn a measure introduced by a government of which one has so recently been a member, and there are, and there must always be, circumstances attending such criticism and such condemnation as will unfavourably affect many friends, many colleagues and many of those with whom one has been heretofore politically associated. I am pleased, however, Sir, to be able to avail myself of the present opportunity of exonerating the right hon. leader of the government (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) from the charge which has been frequently made against him since this difficulty has originated. The right hon. gentleman has been charged with having made a suggestion to me that I should, having the opinions which I entertain with respect to the railway scheme that the government have determined upon, remain a member of the government and should quietly and silently continue to act as a colleague with him in that administration. The charge which has been preferred is that this proposition was made by himself to me. I am bound to say, in justice to the right hon. gentleman, that the proposition did not emanate from him, and I make this statement, not at his instance, but as a matter of fair play to him and of fair play to myself. In the correspondence which ensued pending my contemplated resignation I referred, as you will remember, to the circumstance that such a suggestion had been made in Council, and I mentioned the reasons which I thought had rendered it impossible for me to favourably entertain such a suggestion. I did it because I thought that there were perhaps