

SUPPLY—PRODUCTION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

Attention of the House called to the matter—Mr. R. L. Borden—1617.

Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—1617.

Grievance before supply; the tradition in all self-governing countries—1617. Usage in regard to documents in possession of the Crown, and departmental documents—1618. The right of access to documents with two limitations—1619. It is not Ames, but the government, that is trying to create a new precedent—1620. The suggestion that these documents should not be inspected because they relate to title—1621. Not the practice to demand reasons from any gentleman moving for papers; moves a resolution—1622-3. The original may be denied him if he makes an oppressive demand—1624. It depends on his stating that he desires the information in the public interest—1625. Should grant access to originals for the same reason—1626.

Boyce, A. C. (West Algoma)—1666.

Rises to comment on the extraordinary attitude of the Prime Minister—1666. Has changed his position since the matter was under consideration on the 13th of the month—1667. These two opposite positions of the Prime Minister present a very remarkable anomaly—1668.

Bristol, E. (Central Toronto)—1663.

Reviews the situation; asks Laurier if Ames did not state his reasons—1663. Afraid no reason they could give would, in Oliver's opinion justify the production of documents—1664. The question is not whether a member has or has not the right to go into the department—1665. Ames case exactly within the lines of the Prime Minister's own argument—1666.

Chisholm, Thomas (East Huron)—1651.

Must be something wrong with the Department of the Interior when they find the minister so often in trouble—1651. Thinks the minister has lost his head, he has simply gone wild—1652. Hopes that for his own sake he will let them see the original documents—1653.

Foster, Hon. Geo. E. (North Toronto)—1628.

Laurier saw fit to ignore everything that preceded the absolutely tyrannical refusal made the other day—1628. Never before has he known any attempt to prevent members of the Public Accounts Committee perusing papers at their leisure—1629. The House must not allow any of its rights, sanctioned by custom to be taken away—1630. Neither by the courtesy of the minister nor the will of this House was allowed a look at these originals—1631. Ames gives the only possible reason he can give, being a truthful man—1632. Few ministers in this House who have not known papers to disappear—1633. This particu-

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lar circumstance the weakest case that could possibly be—1634. Ames' proposition a very reasonable one—1635. Laurier climbed down, not as gracefully as in other evolutions, but still he climbed—1636. Has not the papers in his pockets; does know that he has them amongst his earthly possessions—1643. Does not suppose Oliver meant that he was tampering with those papers—1645. If Oliver had done his duty he would have had a motion for their return—1646.

Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister)—1623.

In the enforcement of rights certain rules have to be rigidly enforced—1623. On stating that the original will give information which the copy will not, access is granted—1624. As a rule the information is imparted by copies; directly a reason is given the production of papers shall take place—1625. Borden admitted there might be cases where the government should refuse—1626. Ames contends that it is for the government to show reasons why the papers should not be produced—1627. If Ames asks for papers, and gives good reasons, his demand will be complied with—1628.

Northrup, W. B. (East Hastings)—1658.

Ames moved for original documents to test the question of their production—1658. Quotes the ground on which the Deputy Minister has presumed to lay down a rule for this parliament—1659. Quotes Oliver's ground for justifying his refusal—1660. The Premier's reason for declining to produce certain documents—1661. Oliver gave some amusing episodes of occurrences in days gone by—1662. But differs entirely from his leader—1663.

Oliver, Hon. Frank (Minister of the Interior)—1636.

Takes exception to Foster's remarks as far as the Interior is concerned—1636. Foster changed his views when he changed his seat in the House—1637. Never learned that they were accustomed to show original documents—1638. To assist in clearing up a doubt, as a matter of courtesy, members were given access to originals—1639. If any member will give a reason for the production all risks will be taken—1640. Ames' suspicion that something might be wrong not a reason for putting him in possession of other people's property—1641. Should a paper be mislaid the proof of the fact could not then be made—1642. Original tenders produced on a motion by Foster in 1906 have not since been returned—1643. These documents were taken out of the custody of my department, this session demands for 21 original documents—1644. Foster was absolutely regardless of the private