

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 26th August, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

## VACANCY.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that a vacancy has occurred in the representation of the electoral district of Brandon by the resignation of Dalton McCarthy, Esq. In accordance with chapter 13, section 5, subsection 2 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, I have issued my warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to make out a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

## FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 2) to amend the Dairy Products Act, 1893.—(Mr. McLennan, Glengarry.)

Bill (No. 3) respecting the sale of railway return fare tickets.—(Mr. McLennan, Glengarry.)

Bill (No. 4) for the better protection of the employees of railway companies and others.—(Mr. Maclean.)

Bill (No. 5) to prohibit the importation and immigration of foreigners and aliens under contract or agreement to perform labour in Canada.—(Mr. Taylor.)

## RAILWAYS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. MARTIN asked,

Whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a measure during the present session of Parliament authorizing the construction of the Belfast and Murray Harbour Railway and other proposed branch railways in the province of Prince Edward Island?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). It is not the intention of the Government to introduce any legislation on this or other matters of a kindred character this session; but the matter will receive ample consideration.

## MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

Mr. BOYD asked,

Has the portfolio of the Minister of the Interior been offered to any one by the Hon. First Minister as yet? If not, why not? When is it proposed to fill this office? What is the reason for the delay in filling it?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). My hon. friend is aware that these questions relate to matters which are now confidential. As soon as the appointment has been made, the House will be informed of it at once.

Mr. OLIVER.

## REFORM OF THE TARIFF.

Mr. TISDALE (for Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asked,

Did the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries say in a speech at Middleton in 1893, as reported in the "Morning Chronicle," Halifax:

"The policy of the Liberal party, on the contrary, is the reform of the tariff by the elimination from it of every vestige of protection."

If so, is this the present policy of the Liberal party?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). Not having seen the report of the speech for some years, I am not able to say anything as to the exact accuracy of the quotation. I may say, however, that I intended to refer, and think I did refer, to those duties which the ex-Finance Minister's speech referred to as having been levied for protective purposes and not for purposes of revenue. But if any persons are particularly anxious to know my exact views upon the whole question, I will refer them to my speech in full.

## THE COAL DUTIES.

Mr. TISDALE (for Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asked,

1. Did the First Minister receive a telegram reading as follows:—

Pictou, 18th June, 1896.

Hon. Wilfred Laurier, Montreal.

Conservative misrepresentations render it extremely important assurance should be given that coal interests would be guarded. Answer.

(Signed) E. M. MACDONALD.

And did the First Minister reply as follows:—

Black Lake, Quebec.

E. M. Macdonald, Pictou.

Policy to be followed as laid down in Liberal platform adopted at Ottawa convention. Coal interests will be carefully guarded.

(Signed) WILFRED LAURIER.

2. If these telegrams were sent and received, will the First Minister now definitely explain what is meant by the sentence, "Coal interests will be carefully guarded"?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). Mr. Laurier received a telegram identical with the telegram now quoted, he sent an answer identical with the answer now quoted, and the First Minister now definitely explains that what was meant by this sentence, "Coal interests will be carefully guarded," was that at the proper time, coal interests would be guarded carefully.

## THE TARIFF.

Mr. TISDALE (for Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asked,

Is the following a fairly accurate report of a part of a speech of the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries at Sussex, New Brunswick, in January last:—