

that it be amended by inserting the word 'railway' before the word 'corporations.' I do this at the suggestion of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Hon. Mr. Blair).

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Hon. A. G. Blair). I would ask my hon. friend (Mr. Smith, Vancouver), to have the notice of his motion put on the paper, so that the motion may come before us in the regular way on Monday.

Motion dropped.

OTTAWA AND THE C.P.R. STREET CROSSINGS.

Mr. THOS. BIRKETT (Ottawa) moved for :

Copies of all applications, documents, papers and correspondence by or between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the government, or the Minister of Railways and Canals, whereby the Canadian Pacific Railway Company applied for and obtained permission to cross, or continue to cross, certain streets in the western part of the city of Ottawa.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Hon. A. G. Blair). There is no objection to the motion passing. But I am not aware that there has been any correspondence on this subject. Applications, I apprehend, would come in the regular course. But any papers there are in the department will be brought down.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. MACLEAN. Before we adjourn, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding), whether it is his intention to move the House into Committee of Supply to-morrow ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. W. S. Fielding). Some hon. members requested, and I thought it reasonable, that we should not proceed with supply until the Auditor General's Report was placed on the table. On the assumption that that report would be presented on Friday, I said that on that day we would proceed with supply. I still anticipate that we shall have the report to-morrow. And if it is likely that some matter is to be brought up for discussion on going into supply, we might proceed. If the report be laid on the table after the House opens, perhaps hon. members would not be willing to proceed with business in Committee of Supply. But, as it seems that any discussion might be proceeded with, I would say 'yes' to the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Maclean's) question.

Mr. SMITH (Vancouver).

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). But the hon. minister (Hon. Mr. Fielding), does not propose to make any progress in supply ? Otherwise, I would ask, what particular portion of the estimates he intends to deal with ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I would be pleased to make progress, but possibly objection might be taken to proceeding in supply at the same moment that the Auditor General's Report is laid on the table. Otherwise we might go on with supply, beginning with civil government.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Then the report will not be laid on the table till after we meet to-morrow ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Perhaps not.

Mr. MONK. If we are to meet to-morrow only to adjourn, I am sure there are a number of members who would prefer to be absent. The report of the Auditor General should be in our hand for a little while before we go into supply. Under the statute, it ought to be before the House the first week of the session—

Mr. FRASER. Fourteen days.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No ; the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) is right.

Mr. MONK. I have verified it but recently. If we receive the report of the Auditor General late in the sitting to-morrow, what progress shall we make ? We shall merely meet and adjourn.

The PRIME MINISTER. The government is in no way responsible for the fact that the Auditor General's Report has not yet been placed before parliament. I think it would be a bad example, if we wish to have a short session, to commence adjourning. We must adjourn over next Wednesday in any case, as that is Ash Wednesday, and a legal holiday.

Mr. SPROULE. It does seem to me that the contention of the First Minister can hardly be sustained, when he says that the government is in no way responsible for this report. Though the Auditor General may not be an officer under the government, still, he is under the supervision of the government, and this is a departmental report which parliament needs before it can intelligently do its work. It is the duty of the government to see that the House is in possession of these reports before the business to which they relate is gone on with.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. It seems to me that we might as well not sit to-morrow, thus allowing many members, even those who live at a considerable distance, to return home. I am willing to sit to-morrow if there is business to be done. But as we see by the