

found that on the day of the opening of Parliament in that year, some time in the month of November, one volume of the report was placed on the Table; a second volume was tabled within three days and a third volume within a fortnight of the opening of the session. There were only three volumes at that time, whereas at the present time there are four. There can be no good reason to delay the presentation of the report for such a long period as it has been delayed during the past two years. It came to my notice that the trouble is not in the Printing Bureau; that the trouble is in the Finance Department, because I know, as a matter of fact, that the last of the copy did not reach the Printing Bureau until the 6th April, so that it would be impossible for the Printing Bureau to do their work unless the Finance Department had done its work providing the Printing Bureau with the copy. Therefore, as I have said, this is a matter which should not occur again, and I mention it so that the leader of the Government can draw the matter to the attention of the proper parties and see that when Parliament assembles next year the Auditor General's Report will be ready and the law will be complied with.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: The right hon. gentleman is not entitled to reply, but I am sure, under the circumstances, the House will give him a little consideration.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: A little latitude. What the hon. gentleman states is no doubt true. It struck me, however, as he went through with his statement that he is very hard to satisfy. When a man gets one volume, very large and bulky, and then shortly afterwards, gets a second volume, equally large and bulky, and then shortly after that, before he certainly has had time to digest the other two, a third one is thrown upon him, one would think most mortals would have been quite well satisfied with what had been served up to them and would not have been so anxious for the fourth and final dish to be set on the Table. It is, however, the right of my hon. friend and the House to have the Auditor General's report. But my hon. friend failed to observe the fact that the Auditor General is a Parliamentary officer, and although he is connected with the Finance Department, it is not quite right, I think, to hold the Finance Department or the Government responsible for the time at which he gets

[Mr. Sinclair.]

his report through and ready for the printer. It is, of course, the duty of the Government to carry on business properly and to see that all reports are brought down as soon as possible. I will specially bring the attention of the Auditor General to the matter, and as my hon. friend has taken it for granted that this Government will have an opportunity of being questioned another year as to why the Auditor General's report is or is not down at a certain time, I will see that the proper statement is laid before the Auditor General so that he may be hurried up as much as possible. I notice my hon. friend, looking for precedents on his own side, out of fifteen years was cautious enough to venture only upon one, and he happened to find a favourable one in that respect.

Mr. ARCHAMBAULT: May I point out to my right hon. friend that the first three volumes of the Auditor General's report are practically only routine; the fourth volume is the most important and it contains the most contentious matter.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The first three are educative.

#### TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND.

On the motion for Supply:

Mr. D. D. MCKENZIE (North Cape Breton) Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, as I may not have an opportunity later on in the session to bring this matter to the notice of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, I wish to say a word to him in connection with the arrangements between Canada and Newfoundland in regard to the carrying trade or transportation between, say the terminus at North Sydney and Port aux Basques and or city of St. John, Newfoundland.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That will be an item that I propose to take up as soon as we go into committee, and perhaps the discussion could take place then.

Mr. MCKENZIE: If there is any item in the Supplementary Estimates I did not notice it.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes.

Mr. MCKENZIE: What I wanted to point out is this. It is being contended that the transportation between Port aux Basques and the port of North Sydney is not sufficient to meet the immense volume of traffic. I would ask the minister if there is any arrangement in contemplation