

to apologize to the House for challenging my accuracy with regard to items which I quote from the Auditor General's Report. He could have been much better employed than in bringing up this matter before the House.

Mr. BRODEUR. I invite my hon. friend to make all the investigations he wants and he will find that the statement he made is not correct. He will find that all those goods were purchased for the sailors.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. I say it is a waste of money. We might as well throw the money into the river as buy 8 blouses at \$30 each for use of men working on the steamers and dredges in the ship canals. Then cloaks at \$30. But cloaks are only worn by ladies. You do not buy cloaks for men working on dredges. I am surprised that the minister can get up and justify these items as a proper expenditure of the people's money.

#### CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINERS.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER (North Toronto). After this grave and delicate matter has been disposed of, I would like to ask if the right hon. the Prime Minister has decided whether or not it is the duty of the government to bring down according to law, the report of the Civil Service examiners. I have asked three or four times for that report and it has not yet come down. In the meantime, I have inquiries from many sources as to the rules and regulations, which I cannot answer because nothing has yet been brought down.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There has been some misapprehension between the Civil Service Commissioners and the Secretary of State. I shall try to give my hon. friend an answer to-morrow.

#### PORT STANLEY PIER.

Mr. T. W. CROTHERS (West Elgin). I wish to call the attention of the government, and especially the Minister of Public Works, to information I have from a responsible citizen of the village of Port Stanley, to the effect that the wages of the labourers employed on the government pier there are three months in arrears. I had occasion to draw the attention of the Minister of Public Works earlier in the session to the condition of affairs there. I want to do him the justice to say that he very promptly saw that the wages then in arrears were paid. But if the information I have to-day is correct, the wages are again in arrears to the extent of three months, and I would ask the hon. Minister if it be the policy of his department that we should give him a reminder that these wages are due. If that be the policy of the department, I will

Mr. G. TAYLOR.

make a note of it in my diary, and will see that he is reminded every month. If the information is correct—I have it from a responsible man living in the village—I would ask the Minister of Public Works if he would see that these men are paid. It is too bad that labouring men should have to go without their wages for three months especially in the winter season.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I have received no information in regard to the wages of labourers being in arrears at Port Stanley, but I will look into the matter.

#### SUPPLY—CONCURRENCE.

House proceeded to consider resolutions reported from Committee of Supply.

Hon. J. HAGGART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is an innovation simply to read the number of each item and the amount. It is a rule of the House that the item itself must be read.

Mr. FIELDING. My hon. friend is mistaken as respects recent years. In my experience the practice has been precisely as at present. The presumption is that if any hon. gentlemen wishes to speak on any particular item, he will take note of it, and deal with it when it comes.

Mr. J. D. REID. I have been trying to find in the estimates the different items, and I cannot tell what we are passing. I see no way of finding the items.

Mr. FIELDING. There is no real difficulty, although it involves a little trouble. If the hon. gentleman will consult the Votes and Proceedings for each day on which the committee sat he will find the items.

Mr. J. HAGGART. The rule of the House is that the item shall be read, although that rule has not been adhered to.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am informed by the two previous Speakers that the custom with them was to read the amount. If the hon. gentleman insists on having the item read he is entitled to it.

Mr. FOSTER. The rule of the House is that in order to inform the House the subject matter shall be read out as well as the amount. That system, however, was found to entail great waste of time and in order to facilitate the transaction of business the practice has been adopted of simply reading the number of the resolution and the amounts of the several items. I would be disposed to adhere to that rule, and hon. members would understand what was under discussion by referring to the Votes and Proceedings.

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