

Representatives of Canada participated lately in the permanent establishment and organization of the International Institute of Agriculture, with its headquarters at Rome, an event of interest to our country in whose economic system agriculture plays so great a part. It is gratifying to note that among the forty-eight States adhering to the Institute recognition of Canada's agricultural importance was shown by election of our representatives to some of the highest offices of the Institute.

The appalling calamity which has befallen Sicily and Southern Italy and caused a total destruction of life and property absolutely unprecedented and unequalled in the long series of historic disasters, has induced my government to offer assistance for the immediate relief of the hundreds of thousands of sufferers who were helpless against famine and all its consequent horrors. I confidently hope that you will approve its action.

In pursuance of an announcement made during the concluding session of last parliament, a commission was appointed to examine the various lines of railway connected with the Intercolonial Railway and which might become valuable feeders thereto. The report of this commission has been received and will be placed before you.

The commissioner appointed for investigating the conduct of officers in the Department of Marine and Fisheries has concluded his labour, but has not yet reported. His report, however, is expected at an early date and when received will be placed in your hands.

A measure will be submitted to you, based upon similar legislation enacted in 1906 by the parliament of the United Kingdom, aiming at the repression of the payment of secret commissions and gratuities both in public and private business.

You will be asked to consider measures relative to insurance, the civil service, immigration, naturalization and other subjects.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The accounts of the last year will be laid before you.

The estimates for the coming year will be submitted at an early date; they have been prepared with a due regard for economy consistent with the requirements of the public service.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I pray the Divine Providence that it may guide your deliberations, and that they may tend to a further increase in the prosperity of our country and the well-being of our people.

Mr SPEAKER.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of parliament of the Dominion of Canada, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

He said: It was our intention to proceed to-morrow with the speech, but several members have suggested to me that Monday would be preferable. We are in the hands of the House and if there is no objection I will say Monday.

Mr. FOSTER. Why delay?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Very good—to-morrow.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed lists of members to compose the select standing committees of this House under Rule 10, such select committee to be composed of the following members: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Messrs. Borden (Halifax), Paterson, Fielding, Haggart (Lanark), Calvert and Taylor (Leeds), and that the portion of Rule 10 limiting the number of members of said committee be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament.—Mr. Speaker.

Report of the Auditor General for fiscal year ended March 31, 1908, Vols. 1 and 3; Public Accounts for the year ended March 31, 1908; Trade and Navigation returns for the year ended March 31, 1908; Report of the Department of Inland Revenue for the year ended March 31, 1908, part 1, relating to excise; Report of the Department Inland Revenue for the year ended March 31, 1908, relating to the Inspection of Weights and Measures; Report of the Minister of Justice for the year ended March 31, 1908.—Mr. Paterson.

Report of the Minister of Agriculture for the year ended March 31, 1908, first appendix thereto, being report of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commission.—Mr. Fisher.

Report of the Postmaster General for the year ended March 31, 1908; Report of the Department of Labour for the year ended March 31, 1908.—Mr. Lemieux.

ADJOURNMENT—GRAND TRUNK HOTEL SITE.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax.) Mr. Speaker, before the House adjourns I would