

'ARCTIC' EXPEDITION, THE—*Con.*

Laurier, Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister)—3621.

This motion is consequent upon the debate which took place in House on night of Tuesday last. The statement was made by several members, very categorically, that supplies which had been purchased and paid for out of money of country could not all have gone into the hull of steamer; if such statements are well founded, it means that a fraud of the worst character has been committed upon country—3621. The supplies purchased for furnishing of the 'Montcalm' is a subject with which Committee on Public Accounts can deal if they think fit; if motion is confirmed I shall confer with hon. friend on other side (Mr. R. L. Borden) as to the composition of the committee—3622. When hon. gentlemen on other side of House make charges they are to be assumed to be nothing else than froth and wild talk. Charge of other side of House is that there has been larceny committed at the expense of the government. The late Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Préfontaine) is no longer in the House to defend himself; he has rendered his account to another tribunal before which all of us must appear some day—3629. Hon. the leader of opposition goes off at a tangent; he does not say whether or not he will accept this motion, but wants to have further investigation. Is there no sense of justice or fair-play to be expected from opposite side of House?—3630. Nothing is more detrimental to the country than that we should allow any dishonest act to pass unnoticed when a charge is made—3631. Has no objection to having resolution amended to read 1903-4 or 1904-5.

Macdonald, E. M. (Pictou)—3657.

Quotes speech of right hon. Prime Minister on debate in supply. The right hon. the leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) pointed out the gravamen of the charges made by hon. gentlemen opposite and referred to the points on which alone they were prepared to take responsibility—3657. Calls attention of hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) to his brave bold words of a few nights ago; quotes 'Hansard'—3658. Hon. leader of opposition evades the question brought squarely home to him by resolution of the leader of House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier); opposition prefer indulging in generalities to saying definite, specified statements—3659. The right hon. leader of this House has taken the strong position that when hon. gentlemen opposite are prepared to make definite charges of a personal character against the officials of the Marine and Fisheries Department or any other, he will grant them a committee on a specific charge—3660. Reason why proposition of leader of opposition should not be accepted by House is that, practically, it intimates a desire on his part to escape responsibility. It may be that there are some officials in the department of whom it might be said that it was time to lop the mouldering branch away—3661. Hon.

'ARCTIC' EXPEDITION, THE—*Con.*

Macdonald, E. M. (Pictou)—*Con.*

members opposite are unwilling to take responsibility of making definite charges; they only insinuate, in order to arouse, if possible, suspicion throughout the country—3662.

Maclean, A. K. (Lunenburg)—3645.

Lord Strathcona used substantially the following words: In no case are the names of the parties to this contract to be made public and the matter is to be regarded as strictly confidential—3645.

Macpherson, R. G. (Vancouver City)—3635.

What would hon. friend (Mr. Foster) ask twenty-two men to live upon?—3635. Who supplied that bill?—3636. Would hon. member state what L. Morrow & Co., supplied?—3637. Is ninety cents a day extravagant living for sailors on the Pacific coast? Will any hon. gentleman in House say that boat was only in commission ten months in the year?—3638. Is hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) prepared to make statement that supplies for 'Kestrel' are extravagant?—3639.

McLean, A. A. (Queen's, P.E.I.)—3656.

Resolution introduced by Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) refers to goods purchased in summer of 1903; not one purchase of supply was made for 'Arctic' in 1903, but all purchases we made after vessel arrived in April or May 1904—3656. Inquiry would go for nothing if House passes present resolution—3657.

Northrup, W. B. (East Hastings)—3649.

Quotes item of Supply on which House was moved into committee; instances charges made by hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor)—3649. Government bought from five concerns last year an amount of no less than \$849,000 worth of goods without tender; quotes hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor)—3650. Quotes right hon. gentleman on item of Supply. Supplies put on board 'Arctic' were not put on in consequence of any requisition signed by Captain Bernier—3651. Contrasts two positions taken by First Minister in regard to the investigation of the Department of Marine and Fisheries—3652. Public Accounts Committee cannot afford time for a complete investigation; special committee is necessary for thoroughness. How did government, in the first place, come to possess itself of this boat?—It was understood in 1903 that government intended to purchase a boat to go to the North Pole—3654. It is almost impossible for government to be condemned on proposed motion unless it should happen that we could find direct proof of theft on the part of somebody—3655. Present Minister (Mr. Brodeur) having succeeded to office politically he has to bear the responsibility of what was done under his predecessor—3656.

Reid, J. D. (Grenville)—3662.

Prime Minister stated the other evening that he would grant a committee to in-