

House on said Joint Committee on the Printing of Parliament.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to suggest to the hon. leader of the Government that in view of the absence of Mr. Costigan the name of Mr. Foster be substituted for Mr. Costigan's name on that committee, at all events during the latter's absence.

The PRIME MINISTER. I consent to the change.

Motion agreed to.

#### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 9) to amend the Criminal Code of 1892, for the purpose of making more effectual provision for the punishment of seduction and abduction.—(Mr. Charlton.)

#### RESIGNATION OF THE LATE GOVERNMENT.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government if he is ready to lay upon the Table of the House the remaining correspondence with regard to the resignation of the late Government?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I have the correspondence here, that is to say, the memorial which was laid by Sir Charles Tupper before His Excellency at the time the correspondence took place between His Excellency and himself; and I now lay this correspondence on the Table. I move that rule 94 of the House be suspended, and that the papers just brought down be immediately printed.

Motion agreed to.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I should like also to ask the leader of the Government when he expects to be able to lay on the Table of the House further correspondence covered by the motion?

The PRIME MINISTER. I hope to bring it down to-morrow.

#### FIRE AT TIGNISH, P.E.I.

Mr. HACKETT. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, to bring to the notice of the House a very serious disaster which occurred in Prince Edward Island a few days ago,—I refer to the fire at Tignish. The fire occurred on Sunday, and within three hours the greater part of the town was swept away, nothing being left but smoking ruins instead of the happy homes which formerly existed. I will read for the information of the House a brief description of the fire as printed in the Charlottetown "Guardian," as follows:—

Tignish has suffered a severe loss. Probably never has such a fire occurred on this island as that which happened on Sunday. It broke out at about 2.30 p.m. in the carriage factory of Mr. Peter Kinch, caused by the owner's daughter igniting some shavings. A strong south-west

wind was blowing at the time, which bore the flames around the business part of the village. The large Chaisson block was soon a mass of flames, and almost simultaneously, the residence of Dr. Murphy. It swept through the principal part of the village, burning furiously as though no power on earth could stop it, and many buildings were soon consumed. The railway round house, one engine and a number of cars were burned. The flames spread so rapidly that only one engine could possibly be saved. This was pushed out by hand, there not being time to get up steam. The sight was a pitiful one, and the excitement was intense. Tignish has no fire protection, and the citizens were obliged to work together to their utmost, using buckets of water and other similar methods, but the flames were too powerful, and in the short time of three hours from the time it began, the village was a mass of ruins. There are about seventy buildings in all burned to the ground, and fourteen families left homeless. A relief committee is organized for the purpose of coming to the aid of the poor people who suffered by the late fire. Any contributions will be thankfully received by the parish.

(Signed) FATHER DUGALD.

I think, Mr. Speaker, this is an occasion on which an appeal may fairly be made to the generosity of both parties in this House. I remember fourteen or fifteen years ago being a spectator of a fire across the river in Hull, when many people lost their homes. On that occasion, Parliament being in session, an appeal was made to it, and immediate aid was asked and afforded by this Parliament. A resolution was at once brought down to the House, and passed to afford relief to the sufferers. I ask the leader of the Government, who is a very humane man and one who would desire to relieve the sufferings of distress, if on this occasion he will not be prepared to bring down a resolution as was done on that occasion, and have a grant passed by Parliament so as to afford some assistance to the sufferers at Tignish. A sum of \$2,000 granted now would relieve the sufferings of those people more than three times that amount obtained at a later period. I ask the consideration of the leader of the Government, the Finance Minister and their colleagues to this matter, and I trust they will be able to grant some assistance.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I heard only indistinctly the remarks that fell from my hon. friend (Mr. Hackett), but I understood him to refer to a disaster which had befallen the town of Tignish, which forms part of one of the ridings represented in this House. I understood the hon. gentleman to desire not only the sympathy of the Government but expression of their sympathy in a way more substantial than mere sentiment. The hon. gentleman will recognize at once that it is impossible for the Government on the spur of the moment to give an answer to this demand. It will be taken into due consideration, but the particulars given in the newspaper report being scanty,