

at once informed when the return was laid on the table?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Blain) will agree with me that it is the business of a member of the House to look over the returns and to look at the Votes and Proceedings every day.

Mr. BLAIN. If returns were brought down in a reasonable length of time I would agree with my right hon. friend, but my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, the other day, read a long list of returns some of which had been standing for many weeks and some for months. I do not think that the right hon. gentleman would say that a member should watch from day to day for returns, which have been delayed for months after the order of the House has been passed.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think my hon. friend agrees with me that every member watches the Votes and Proceedings every day.

Mr. LENNOX. Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed—

Mr. SPEAKER. I am afraid I could not allow a discussion at this stage. We will be going into Supply in a few minutes.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

#### RECIPROCAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. MONK. I would like to ask the government when it is intended to resume the discussion on the reciprocity agreement. A short time ago a motion was made in this House to stay the discussion for reasons that were given, and we were told that it could not be, that we were in honour bound to continue that discussion. Shortly after it was shelved, and I would like to know if it has been shelved for good or if it is intended to take it up again?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend is aware that as we are approaching the end of the fiscal year the first duty of parliament is to vote the Supplies.

Mr. MONK. I think my right hon. friend has not answered my question.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think I have. The first duty of parliament is to vote Supplies, and then we will attend to the reciprocity agreement, and other matters before the House.

#### SUPPLY—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. FIELDING moved that the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. LENNOX. Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I desire to refer again to the matter of the returns. It seems

Mr. BLAIN

to me that the government should be disposed to facilitate the efforts of the various members of parliament to discharge their duties as fully as possible, and I may say that in common with very many other members I have felt very great inconvenience resulting from the fact that we do not know without very considerable search from time to time whether returns ordered have been brought down or not. The right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) said a moment ago that it was the duty, I think, or the custom, I do not know which, of members of parliament to daily read the Votes and Proceedings.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I said the duty.

Mr. LENNOX. I have not been discharging my duty in that regard.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. And many others also.

Mr. LENNOX. And in that particular I am standing upon the same ground as very many industrious members of this House. It is impossible for us daily to read the Votes and Proceedings, and if we did read the Votes and Proceedings I do not know that they would give us the information that we desire. When an order is made the matter goes off the Votes and Proceedings and there is no record of when the return is brought down in the Votes and Proceedings.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes there is.

Mr. LENNOX. I do not recall that there is.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. LENNOX. But in any event, it would be a very light duty and one involving very little work for some of the officials of the government to notify the member when a return is made. I know there are more industrious members than I am, but there are some who are not as industrious as I am, and I may say distinctly that the difficult duty of having from day to day to look at these Votes and Proceedings for the purpose of ascertaining whether a belated return has been given to the House or not should not and need not be put upon the members of the House. Almost every day we are asking about returns. I was about to bring this matter before the House yesterday, but on looking over 'Hansard,' I found that my leader had, the day before, in my absence, made an extensive inquiry with regard to belated returns. I would urge upon the leader of the government, seeing that he has been smiling in a very pleasant way at my discussion, to reconsider what he said a few minutes ago, or to consider it further and to adopt the suggestion that we be notified as