

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The accounts for the past year will be laid before you; the estimates for the nine months embracing a portion of the proposed fiscal year terminating on the thirty-first of March, 1907, will be submitted for your approval at an early day.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:**Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I invite your earnest attention to the several subjects I have mentioned and to the general business that will come before you, and I trust your deliberations will be guided by wisdom and moderation.

Right Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister) 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.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present session be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections. 2. On Expiring Laws. 3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines. 4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills. 5. On Standing Orders. 6. On Printing. 7. On Public Accounts. 8. On Banking and Commerce. 9. On Agriculture and Colonization—which said committees shall severally be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament for 1905.—Mr. Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT—AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—INSURANCE COMMISSION.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton, Ont.). Before the House adjourns I would like to ask the Prime Minister when we may expect the report of the Auditor General. It would have been a great convenience to the members, on this side of the House at least, as well as a very great advantage to the public service generally, if we could have had that report at an earlier date. It is perfectly obvious that it must be in the hands of members for a certain time

Mr. SPEAKER.

before they can properly consider estimates that are brought down. In the ordinary course this session would have been called early in January. I suppose we shall have some explanation later on as to why the date of opening has been delayed so long, but if the House had opened at the usual time, early in January, it would certainly have been a very great inconvenience, it would have caused great delay of public business if the report of the Auditor General had been delayed until the present time. If the report could have been brought down earlier for the purpose of a January session, I fail to understand why it could not have been brought down earlier for the purpose of a March session, and I would like very much, if the Prime Minister is able to afford any explanation, that that explanation should be given now, together with information as to when we may expect the report.

I would also like to ask the Prime Minister to lay upon the table of the House the Commission which has been issued to certain gentlemen for the purpose of conducting an investigation into the operations of insurance companies in Canada. We have, it is true, what purports to be a copy of it furnished to the public press, but I think it is desirable that, for the benefit and information of the House, we should have an exact copy of the Commission laid upon the table of the House, at the earliest possible moment and it would be desirable also, I think, that the House should be furnished at the earliest possible moment with information as to whether or not it is the intention of the government to authorize, or to pay for out of the public exchequer, the services of counsel, in connection with the investigation.

It seems possible that the investigation might fail to satisfy that public uneasiness which has been referred to in the speech to which we have listened to-day unless some step of this kind were taken or authorized by the administration.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Mr. Speaker, I have to remind my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) of the practice which he knows as well as I do myself and to state that I am not in a position to give him any information or to give him the reason why the report of the Auditor General has not been presented to parliament this afternoon. My hon. friend is aware that the Auditor General is bound to present his report within a certain period. As the session has been called late perhaps we may anticipate that there will no excuse whatever if the report is not presented within the time—in fact I have no doubt it will be presented within the time prescribed by parliament and perhaps the Auditor General will avail himself of the time which is given to him to gratify parliament with an early presentation of his report.

I take this opportunity to answer at once