

The **PRIME MINISTER**. That is not the usual course; the usual course has always been the contrary, to take into consideration the Speech from the Throne on the following day.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no particular objection, but I think that is not the ordinary course. Does the hon. gentleman propose to adjourn the House until to-morrow and take up the consideration of the Speech to-morrow, or to pursue the usual course of considering it on Monday?

The **PRIME MINISTER**. My hon. friend is in error, the usual course is to adjourn the House until the following day, and this is the course which I propose to follow on the present occasion; this has been the course in every other instance, so far as my memory goes. I need not say, however, that if it would be more convenient to my hon. friend to take it into consideration on Monday, I would be very well disposed to oblige him in that respect.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am in the judgment of the House, but I think that was the course pursued on the last occasion.

Mr. SPEAKER. On the last occasion a similar motion was carried.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If that be the case, I will not interpose any objection to the consideration of the Speech to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (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.

REPORTS.

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

Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries (Marine Branch).—(Sir Louis Davies.)

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and at 3.55 p.m., the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 4th February, 1898.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

UNITED STATES REGULATIONS IN THE YUKON.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to draw the attention of the right hon. the First Minister to the great anxiety felt by the people of this country, and especially of British Columbia, respecting the arrangements that have been made by the United States of America regarding communication by the Chilkoot and White Passes. I shall be exceedingly glad if the Government will lay on the Table any information on that subject, so as to relieve the public tension that exists in regard to it. It is quite possible the Government may be able to give the House the information now, as the matter is of a very pressing character. I am told that parties who have gone from Victoria and Vancouver for the purpose of fitting out for the Canadian Yukon gold fields, are now returning and going to Seattle to get their supplies, because they think it better to pay the Canadian customs duties on American supplies when they reach the border of Canada, than to be subjected to the onerous and oppressive regulations that at present exist. So far as large companies are concerned, it is a matter of vast importance. Every member will see that where hundreds of independent individual miners are going into a country it becomes a most exasperating and oppressive condition for them to be obliged to pay \$9 a day, as a telegram from the Board of Trade of Victoria states the people are called upon to pay, for a person to escort them through a few miles of American territory—I will not say American territory, because it is practically disputed territory, and the question whether it belongs to the United States or to Canada should long ago have been settled. I am quite sure the First Minister will see the great importance of this matter and will give it that prompt attention which its importance demands.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I quite realize the anxiety that is felt, not only by my hon. friend, but by the whole of the Canadian public in regard to the subject to which he has just called attention. I am quite sure the hon. gentleman realizes that the Government have not been derelict in their duty in that respect, and that they have done whatever it was in their power to do to bring about a more satisfactory state of things than that