

the reorganization of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, the settlement of Railway labour disputes, and various other subjects will be submitted to you.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

The public accounts will be laid before you and also the estimates for the coming year, which have been prepared with due regard to economy and the rapid growth of the Dominion.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I pray that in the consideration of these matters and in the performance of all the labours which will devolve on you, your deliberations, under Divine guidance, will tend still to increase the prosperity and happiness of our people.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

#### SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Rt. Hon. 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.

The PRIME MINISTER moved :

That a special committee of five members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed a list of members to form the select standing committees ordered by this House this day, such select committee to be composed of the following members : Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Borden (Halifax), Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. Mr. Sutherland (Oxford), and Hon. Mr. Haggart.

Motion agreed to.

#### OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

The PRIME MINISTER moved :

That a select committee be appointed to supervise the official report of the debates of this House during the present session, with power to report from time to time, to be composed of Messrs. Ball, Champagne, Charlton, Clarke, Earle, Holmes, La Rivière, Macdonald, Madore, Monet, Roche (Marquette), Russell, Scott, Sutherland (Essex), and Taylor.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Is there any change in the personnel of the committee ?

The PRIME MINISTER. It is the same as last year.

Motion agreed to.

#### REPORTS PRESENTED.

Report of the Joint Librarians of Parliament for 1902.—Mr. Speaker.

Report of the Department of Public Works.—Hon. Mr. Sutherland, Oxford.

#### ADJOURNMENT—MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS—STEAMER STANLEY.

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

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Before the motion is carried, I would like to inquire of my right hon. friend when the usual explanations will be given as to the ministerial changes ? I think the course pursued last year was that the right hon. gentleman told us that he would give notice of a day, and subsequently he named a day on which the explanations were given.

The PRIME MINISTER. The first duty we have to dispose of is the presentation of an Address to His Excellency in reply to the Speech from the Throne. As soon as that duty has been accomplished, I shall be prepared to give the explanations immediately.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Hon. Mr. Raymond Préfontaine). If I may be allowed at this stage, I would like to give to the House the following information from Charlottetown, P.E.I., dated March 12th, 1903 :

'Stanley' got clear ice pack this morning, six miles east Cape Bear, and now alongside 'Minto.' Gulf ice very heavy to eastward.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 4 p.m.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, March 13, 1903.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

#### PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER. Before the presentation of petitions, I would ask hon. members to write down their names on the petitions which they present. This is in accordance with the rule, and, if attended to, it will avoid difficulty.