

## EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF PARLIAMENT.

## Motion:

Resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Most Excellent Majesty the King.—Sir Robert Borden, 622.

*Borden, Rt. Hon. Sir R. L.* (Prime Minister)—622.

The motion which I am proposing to the House is obviously of a very unusual and important character, and can only be justly based on the extraordinary events which the Empire is passing at this time, 622. From all the information in my possession, and from all that I could derive when I was in England during the past summer, I do not believe that we are more than half way through this war at present, 623. As to the precedents for the course which we propose on this occasion, there are only two as far as I am aware, one a precedent of nearly two hundred years ago and the other a precedent recently established in the British Parliament, 624. It may eventually become necessary here, as in Great Britain, that a further extension should be made if an election during the war is to be avoided, 625. Extracts from important journals quoted respecting proposal, 625-7. Public utterances of Opposition speaker quoted, 627. Lest, however, there should be any misunderstanding as to the position of the Government, let me say this. We do not come before Parliament in any sense as suppliants. The Government is quite prepared and willing to submit its record to the judgment of the people, whenever that course becomes necessary or desirable in the public interest, 628.

*Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid* (Quebec East)—629.

In view of the expressions of public opinion to which my right hon. friend referred during the course of the remarks which he made this afternoon, it is possible that the proposal for an extension of the term of Parliament not for the period of the war, but simply for a period of twelve months, will occasion some disappointment. But, in my judgment, and, I believe, in the judgment of every one who values British institutions, a proposal for the extension of the term of Parliament for the duration of the war would be absolutely unacceptable, and if such a proposition as that should be brought before Parliament, I would deem it my duty to oppose it to the last, 630. When war broke out I had a clear vision of the path I should follow, and from that path I have never deviated, though very often I encountered the taunts of foes, and sometimes the doubts of friends. Standing before me were facts which illuminated my course, and pointed the way. There was first of all the fact that England did not engage in this war from any motive of ambition or from any desire for aggrandisement. England went into this war from a sense of the duty which she owed not so much to herself, as to Europe and to mankind at large, 631-3. For all

EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF PARLIAMENT.—*Con.*

these reasons, Sir, in view of the responsibility which has been placed upon my shoulders by my hon. friend; in view of the rights of the people, and in view of what I think best for the country, after giving this question the best judgment that I could, I am not prepared to oppose the resolution, but will allow it to pass unanimously in this House, 635.

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Inquiry.—Mr. Graham, 3231.

Inquiry.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, 3943.

Answer to inquiry of Leader of Opposition.—Sir Robert Borden, 4007.

Statement of progress of Bill in Imperial House.—Sir Robert Borden, 4129.

## FAIR WAGE CLAUSE IN MUNITION CONTRACTS.

Inquiry.—Mr. Knowles, 1969.

## FEDERAL PLAN COMMISSION.

Report laid on Table.—Sir Thomas White, 1603.

## FENIAN RAID BOUNTY.

Inquiry.—Mr. Boivin, 3231.

## FREE WHEAT.

## Motion:—

That, in the opinion of this House, in order to secure to the farmers and people of Canada the advantages of the American market for wheat, wheat products and potatoes, steps should be taken at once to put these articles on the free list in the Canadian Tariff.—Mr. Turriff, 793.

*Boulay, H.* (Rimouski)—1059.

Of all farmers who have no reason to grumble, those of the prairies are first, for the Government is lavish in its favours to them, 1061.

*Cruise, Robert* (Dauphin)—1052.

Believes farmers are in favour of free wheat and gives quotations to sustain argument, 1052-3. Milling industry dealt with, 1054. Pamphlet of Grain Growers Association quoted, 1055-6. Shipbuilding referred to, 1057.

*Hughes, J. J.* (Kings, P.E.I.)—1058.

Free wheat from the millers standpoint discussed, 1059. Potatoes referred to, 1059-60.

*Maclean, W. F.* (York South)—1067.

After studying this question as well as I could, I have come to the conclusion that we should not resist the voice of the people of the West when they ask for the right to sell their wheat in every possible market, 1067. Millers referred to, 1068.