

whole argument went to show that we have not that and as a consequence there has been a large loss to the farmers. The Minister of Agriculture says: I admit that we should have that and therefore I agree with and accept the resolution, it is a motion of want of confidence in the government as it is an amendment to supply, but the minister has accepted it and what has he done by accepting it? He absolutely condemns what he has been doing as Minister of Agriculture for years, because the member who made the motion showed by the thermograph records that there has not been a proper system of cold storage, that there has been a serious loss to the farmers and that Canada is suffering immensely from this cause. The motion is a condemnation of the minister but he says he will accept it and thereby condemns himself and the administration of his department. The Minister of Agriculture says it is true that we have made contracts with the steamship companies to provide cold storage. Yes, they did, but what did those contracts contain? Only a portion of what they ought to contain. They pretend to provide that cold storage shall be supplied to the farmers at a reasonable rate as was done by his predecessors, when similar contracts were made which contained a stipulation specifying exactly how much in addition to the usual freight rates should be added for cold storage. The present contracts do not ensure the maintenance of a uniform temperature for the whole voyage and the perishable products carried suffer in consequence of this omission. We assist steamship companies from two sources, one is by subsidies for carrying mails and the other by subsidies for the provision of cold storage, and in both of these cases I say the government have lamentably failed in the making of the contracts to provide adequate cold storage sufficient for the relief of the farmer and with a uniform temperature throughout the voyage. When the Minister of Trade and Commerce had his contract before the House we asked for a copy and what did that tell us? It contained a provision that the steamships securing a subsidy shall provide adequate cold storage but there was no penalty attached if they do not provide that cold storage. It is like the old saying that a law without a penalty is valueless. You may say a thing is improper and should not be done, but if you do not provide some punishment your law is of no use, and so a contract of this kind without some penalty clause is valueless. You may say as the Minister of Trade and Commerce said, that these steamships shall provide adequate cold storage, but they get the subsidy whether they provide it or not, and the farmers suffer in consequence. The result is that we are paying for something we never get and that is why we are blaming the government. That is why this motion is made and the

Mr. SPROULE.

government by accepting it, accepts a vote of want of confidence in themselves.

Motion (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) agreed to, and House went into Committee of Supply.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). In accordance with the understanding this motion for supply was brought forward to-day in order to afford an opportunity for the discussion of this important subject but without any intention of taking up supply. For that reason I beg to move that the House will to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Motion agreed to, and committee rose and reported progress.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

House in committee on Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

On section 24,

The Northwest Territories Act, being chapter 50 of the Revised Statutes in all Acts amended thereof, are hereby repealed as respects said clauses, provided notwithstanding such repeal so much of the said Acts and of any order or regulation made thereunder as was in force immediately before the coming into force of this Act, and is not inconsistent with anything contained in this Act, or as to which this Act contains no provision intended as a substitute therefor, shall continue in force in the said clauses in pursuance of and for the purpose of section 15 of this Act.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The intention is to continue on the conditions existing in the Northwest Territories at the present time with respect to laws, &c., and at the same time to get rid of the Northwest Territories Act which shall cease to be operative in the territories after this comes into force. I have had the advantage of a conference with the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) and while we are at one with respect to the object we both have in view, it has been suggested by the leader of the opposition that possibly some other form of words might be found to carry out our object. In that view sections 15 and 24 might either be allowed to remain in abeyance or be carried to-night with the understanding that if hereafter any better form of words is found we might reconsider the clauses, or, in the alternative, hold the clauses in abeyance.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. As the Minister of Justice has said the object to be attained is very plain, but it is not easy to adopt the exact form of words necessary for that purpose. The criticism which has been made is that the section now under consideration, while repealing the statutes, continues them in force subject to another repeal provided