

but no tenders have yet been called for nor contracts let.

#### THE LAKE FISHERIES.

Mr. BOYCE—by Mr. Sam. Hughes—asked:

1. Were any requests made to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries last year for the appointment of a commission to investigate the condition of the fisheries on the Georgian bay, Lake Huron, or Lake Superior?

2. If so, by whom were such requests made, and when?

3. What action was taken upon such requests?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister):

1. Yes.

2. The fishermen of Georgian bay by a memorial dated February 22, 1904.

3. All the preparatory steps were taken for the appointment of a commission; but owing to differences of opinion as to the most suitable season of the year for the sittings of such commission, the matter was held over until the present year. It is proposed to arrange for sittings during the present year.

#### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST—SUBSIDY TO ALBERTA.

House in committee to consider the following proposed resolutions providing for the payment of subsidy to the province of Alberta.

On clauses 3 and 4, of the resolution,

Resolved, That inasmuch as the public lands in the said province are to remain the property of Canada, there shall be paid by Canada to the said province annually by way of compensation therefor a sum based upon the estimated value of such lands, namely, \$37,500,000, the said lands being assumed to be of an area of 25,000,000 acres and to be of the value of \$1.50 per acre, and upon the population of the said province, as from time to time ascertained by the quinquennial census thereof, such sum to be arrived at as follows:

The population of the said province being assumed to be at present 250,000, the sum payable until such population reaches 400,000 is to be one per cent on such estimated value, or \$375,000;

Thereafter until such population reaches 800,000, the sum payable is to be one and one-half per cent on such estimated value, or \$562,500;

Thereafter, until such population reaches 1,200,000, the sum payable is to be two per cent of such estimated value, or \$750,000;

And thereafter such payment is to be three per cent on such estimated value, or \$1,125,000.

Resolved, That an additional compensation for such lands there shall be paid by Canada to the said province annually for five years to provide for the construction of necessary public buildings, one-quarter of one per cent on such estimated value, or \$93,750.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance.) When the House was in committee considering this matter on Friday last I Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

presented an amendment by way of substitution for the third clause of the resolution granting an allowance in lieu of the lands. I desire to call attention to the fact that in preparing that amendment it was neglected to provide that the allowance should be paid half-yearly to the province. I wish to insert the words to make it clear that that allowance as well as other allowances to the provinces will be paid half-yearly in advance. The following is the amendment of which I gave notice on Friday:

Inasmuch as the said province will not have the lands as a source of revenue, there shall be paid by Canada to the province annually a sum based upon the population of the province as from time to time ascertained by the quinquennial census thereof, as follows:

The population of the said province being assumed to be at present 250,000, the sum payable until such population reaches 400,000 shall be \$375,000;

Thereafter until such population reaches 800,000, the sum payable shall be \$562,500;

Thereafter until such population reaches 1,200,000, the sum payable shall be \$750,000;

And thereafter the sum payable shall be \$1,125,000.

As an additional allowance in lieu of public lands there shall be paid by Canada to the province annually for five years from the time this Act comes into force, to provide for the construction of necessary public buildings the sum of \$93,750.

I move that clauses 3 and 4 be struck out and that the above be substituted therefor. I also move that after the word 'Canada' in the above amended resolution, the words shall be inserted 'by half-yearly payments in advance.'

Mr. BERGERON. What is the subsidy that is paid yearly to Quebec and Ontario?

Mr. FIELDING. The sum paid to Ontario last year as set forth in the Auditor General's report is: allowance for government, \$80,000; subsidy per head, \$1,116, 872.80; interest on the amount standing to credit of province, \$142,414.48, making a total payment to the province of Ontario last year of \$1,339,287.28. These payments are usually grouped together under the head of subsidies to provinces, though in reality some of the payments are derived from interest on capital account. The payment to Quebec, including precisely the same class of items, amounted to \$1,086,713.48.

Mr. BERGERON. My object in asking the question was to make a comparison between the amounts paid to the two largest provinces, and the amount that will be paid eventually to the new provinces.

Mr. FIELDING. We have to bear in mind that the land subsidy to the new provinces is a very considerable item which does not go to the other provinces because they possess the land. The clause we are now discussing is the allowance in lieu of the land.