

assuming that these men are properly qualified. I will know more about the matter, and, as soon as I have the information, I will explain it to the House.

THE MINT—TRANSPORTATION OF IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. F. D. MONK. I ask leave to remind the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that the correspondence with the Imperial government in regard to the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in Canada, has not been brought down although it was ordered on February 15th. I made mention of that to my hon. friend, and this I think we will require. I would like to ask the government also if they have received any protest or communication of any kind from any foreign government in regard to the ten year contract for the transportation of immigrants from the continent of Europe to Canada?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I will inquire about that, and will answer my hon. friend probably to-morrow or Monday.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I desire to draw the attention of the First Minister to the fact that the postal arrangements in the House are very primitive, resembling some rural post office. I take the liberty of suggesting that the Public Works Department supply the members with a box or a drawer from which they can get their mail matter. They are put to much inconvenience now by having to wait and the letters and papers get mixed up. I assume that this reminder to the Speaker and the First Minister will be sufficient to have this remedied by another session.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

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

On section 16, legislation respecting education.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON. Mr. Chairman, I beg leave to move the following amendment of which notice has already been given:

That all the words of the amendment be struck out, and the following substituted therefor: 16. Section 93 of the British North America Act, 1867, shall apply to the said province as if at the date fixed for the coming into force of this Act, the territory included in the said province were already a province, the word union in the said section meaning the said date:—

2. The legislature shall have the right to pass laws with reference to education, but it shall always guarantee, (a) the existence of separate schools and their enjoyment by the minority,

Mr. HUMERSON.

Protestant or Catholic, who may claim them; (b) the effective control of said schools in matters of teaching by the said minority; (c) the full liberty for the majority of any school section to have such school as it may desire; (d) the equitable and proportionate distribution between the majority and the minority of all moneys appropriated for education.

I suppose, Mr. Chairman, you must think I am very bold to rise at this time and propose an amendment, and it does require a great deal of courage after the treatment accorded yesterday to the amendment of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). I desire to be as brief as possible in the remarks I propose to make. I want to say immediately that my action on this occasion is prompted by a very strong sense of what I believe to be my duty on this occasion. The remarks we heard yesterday from my hon. friend from Labelle and my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. A. Lavergne) will assist me a great deal in making my remarks short. I was agreeably surprised to see in the ranks of the majority coming from the province of Quebec that there were some gentlemen with sufficient independence to express the opinion which they expressed yesterday. It is needless for me to say that I think the position I occupy on this question is a sound one. When I saw my hon. friends from Labelle and Montmagny speaking in the same sense, I thought there was still hope that we might be able to convince, if not the government to-day, at least the electors later on, that the position we have taken is the right one. The remarks made by the hon. member for Labelle must have gone home, if we may judge by the reply of my hon. friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Lemieux) who, in a very eloquent harangue, endeavoured to draw a herring across the trail, and to weaken the effect of the remarks of my hon. friends from Labelle and Montmagny. The Solicitor General, who is a very eloquent and able man, said certain things which, when he comes to think them over, will considerably dampen his enthusiasm. In speaking of the position which the French Canadian race has reached in this country, he said that what struck him the most was the high positions in the state to which some of our French Canadians have attained. Naturally he mentioned my right hon. friend the premier of Canada, he mentioned the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, he mentioned the lieutenant governor of the Northwest Territories, the lieutenant governor of British Columbia, and the chief justice of the Court of Appeal for the province of Manitoba. I do not know whether he should have mentioned these things. My hon. friend is a reader, and if he has read carefully the reports of Lord Durham he may conclude that it would have been better not to mention these things. I do not think that we can correctly judge of the position of a race by noticing some of the high positions which certain of its members may