

department, and we have made arrangements to pay their expenses.

Mr. AMES. It is out of this appropriation that Mr. St. George is paid?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. Yes.

Mr. AMES. Is he now permanently in the employ of the department, and does he give his entire time to it?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. I do not know that he gives his entire time. He is obliged, of course, to do the service that is required from him. He is obliged to be in attendance and to superintend the work as an engineer occupying that position.

Some resolutions reported.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What will we take up on Monday in case we get through with private members' business?

Mr. FIELDING. Supply, taking up the estimates of the Department of Public Works in case the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries is not here.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, March 20, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

On the Orders of the Day being called,

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). I desire to inform the House that it is the intention of the government to proceed with the Autonomy Bill on Wednesday next as the first order. I may say to the House also that it is contemplated to introduce an amendment to section 16, which amendment will be placed in the hands of the clerk, I hope, before the adjournment of the House; and before the adjournment I think we will be able to place on the table of the House the papers which were asked for the other day by the hon. the leader of the opposition.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Of course, it would be desirable, as I have pointed out to the right hon. gentleman, that these papers which are to be brought down, or have been brought down, should be printed, or put in some such form that they will be properly available to members of the House who desire to deal with them in the course of the debate.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER. Is there any announcement by the First Minister or the Minister of Finance as to the budget, or is that now to be indefinitely postponed?

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). I intimated to my hon. friend the other day that some days might elapse before we could make an announcement; and in view of the business which is likely to come before the House, and which is of, perhaps, more immediate interest, I think we will have to postpone for a few days the announcement concerning the budget.

PRIVATE BILLS.

MOOSEJAW AND EDMONTON RAILWAY COMPANY.

House in committee on Bill (No. 20) to incorporate the Moosejaw and Edmonton Railway Company.—Mr. Scott.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The reason that this Bill stood was because I desired the hon. gentleman who has the Bill in charge (Mr. Scott) to explain why it was necessary to have a capitalization, if I remember correctly, of \$2,000,000, and in addition to that the power to issue bonds upon the whole length of the road to the extent of \$25,000 a mile. I would think that perhaps the bond issue would of itself be amply sufficient to build and equip the road—perhaps more than sufficient—but in addition to that we have authorized a capitalization of \$2,000,000.

Mr. SCOTT. I may say, Mr. Chairman, that the application of the promoters called for a capitalization of only \$1,000,000 and it was in the judgment of the standing committee on Railways and Canals that the capitalization was increased to \$2,000,000. I have not the faintest objection to reducing that to \$1,000,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What was the reason for increasing it? Perhaps the hon. gentleman who was present at the committee can give this committee some information as to that.

Mr. HYMAN. It has been the usual custom of the committee in regard to roads of this character to make the capital stock in the neighbourhood of \$10,000 a mile. It is necessary under a clause of the Railway Act to subscribe 15 per cent of the capital to make a start with the road. With a road of this character having a capital of \$1,000,000 it would mean \$150,000, but with \$2,000,000, capital it would mean \$300,000.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the length of the road?

Mr. HYMAN. About 400 miles. These matters have all been discussed from that