

a friend to come and see him without the whole transaction being bared to official eyes. It is a singular fact in connection with this despatch, that in looking up the Foreign Office list, I find that something like fifty per cent of the consuls general and vice-consuls are German, and in the particular case referred to, the consul general at Berlin is Paul von Schwabach and at Leipsic Baron von Tauchnitz. Now, we are accustomed in Canada very frequently to assert our pride of birth and our dignity as a Canadian state, and also to assert sometimes very strongly the foremost position we occupy in the councils of the empire. We had a little while ago a very dramatic recital—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has no privilege at this time to discuss a question.

Mr. BURRELL. Then I ask the privilege. I was just going to remark that we had a very dramatic recital of an episode that occurred in Rome, given to us the other day by the Prime Minister, and which bears on this very subject; because if it is a fine thing to be protected by the British flag in Rome, I think Canadian citizens have just as good a right to be protected in any other foreign country. I trust the government will look into this matter.

#### THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would ask the Prime Minister when we may expect the second volume of the Auditor General's Report. It is desirable that it should be placed on the table of the House this week, if possible, in order that it may be available before the Christmas vacation.

Mr. FIELDING. The matter was brought up in a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee recently when the Auditor General was present, and he told us that he did not think it would be possible to produce it before the recess. At my request it was then arranged that if the volume could be procured before recess, copies of it should be immediately sent to all the members of the Public Accounts Committee. I am afraid that is about the best we can do under the circumstances, though I very much regret that the volume is not before the House.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. It should be sent to each member of the House as well as to each member of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. FIELDING. The request came from the Public Accounts Committee, but I shall see that the Auditor General is requested to see that all the members receive it.

#### PRIVILEGE—REPRESENTATION OF QUEBEC EAST AND OTTAWA.

Mr. CAMPBELL. The right hon. the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) stated to the House that no one yet had asked him to resign either of his seats. I would like to ask if, since he made that statement, any one has asked him to resign?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No, Mr. Speaker, so far nobody has asked me to resign.

#### WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance) moved that the House go into Committee of Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to His Majesty. He said: At the last session of parliament, Mr. Speaker, circumstances obliged me to submit a budget which, not to use a stronger word, was not in all respects a very cheerful one. Perhaps it was because Ministers of Finance everywhere about that time found themselves in strenuous circumstances. Perhaps it was because it was my thirteenth budget and good luck could hardly be hoped for at such a time. However that may be, it is agreeable to me to be able to round out the baker's dozen under happier conditions and to come back once more to the old familiar story of general employment and prosperous trade, increasing revenues, liberal surpluses and generous appropriations for the public service.

The last fiscal year—1908-9—as we call it—the fiscal year ended on the 31st March last, was certainly not a very good year for Canada. There had been a financial depression in the autumn of 1907, a depression which was almost world-wide, and which, in the case of the republic to the south of us, became a financial panic. It would have been too much to expect that we could escape entirely the effects of that financial depression. We did feel it in Canada to some extent—happily to a much less extent than in the case of our neighbours to the south, but still we did experience it to some extent in Canada. It began to show its effect upon our revenues in the closing period of the fiscal year, but the earlier part of the year was one of such great prosperity that, on the whole, the revenue proved to be a very excellent one; indeed, it was a record year. But, when we came to the new fiscal year beginning on the first of April, 1908, a year which ended on the 31st March last, we found that our revenues were very seriously affected. The revenue for the previous year, that which we call a record year, represented the great sum of \$96,054,505.81. But, when we came to close the year 1908-9 we found that we had received a total rev-





























