

can be found in the world, and with the exception of the trans-Atlantic service it may be said to be perfect. All companies are not like the one which undertook the building, and is now running the vessels on the Pacific, and running them under such successful auspices. Although the Government has spent as much, and I think I may say a great deal more time, and given more attention to the successful accomplishment, if possible, of the Atlantic service, it has not been so successful in bringing it to a termination on account of various causes. The reasons which have hitherto prevailed for this delay in bringing the Atlantic service to a success have been given last Parliament. Since the Messrs. Anderson gave up the project the Government has been in negotiation with other companies and other corporations, but several things have intervened to make it impossible for the Government to say that the scheme has been successfully realized. Negotiations have been going on, however, with certain English companies, and they had progressed to a very favourable extent when certain circumstances arose which caused delay. In the first place, Mr. Bryce-Douglas, who came here, and with whom the Government had personal, and I may say satisfactory communication, has suddenly passed away. As my hon. friend knows, Mr. Bryce-Douglas was a leading spirit in the company which built the Pacific line of steamers which are now running so successfully. In addition to this, certain financial difficulties arose in London which made it imprudent, for a certain time at least, to attempt to float so large a concern as was contemplated with reference to this service, because the scheme contemplated not only the establishment of a first-class line of steamers between Canada and the old country, but also the establishment of a first-class service between Canada and Australia, thus taking up and carrying to fulfilment the other two branches of the general proposal which was made two years ago. These circumstances militated against the bringing of this scheme to a successful completion. I may say that negotiations are still going on, and that the Government have not omitted any reasonable effort to bring them to a successful conclusion: and before the session terminates, I hope the Government will be in a position to give more definite information and a more favourable intimation than we are able to do at present. This much I say, and I think the House will take it in the spirit in which it is said, that we realize the great importance of having a first-class service from Canada to the old country as good as any that crosses the Atlantic, and the very generous grant given by Parliament to the Government has been used, so far as inducements went, with that end in view.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER. I wish to state that I propose to adopt the rule, and adhere rigidly to it, that, in case a member is not present at the proper time to move any motion which stands in his name, it must be dropped, unless it stands at the request of the Administration.

RETURNS ORDERED.

Copies of the tenders asked for to construct a graving dock at Kingston; the tenders received; the reports and Mr. FOSTER.

calculations made by the Engineers of the Department of Public Works made and based on these tenders; the contract which has been entered into; the reports of the Engineers which may have been made on the carrying out of the works; or the changes which may have been made in them; and also, a statement of the sums paid out to the contractors up to date.—(Mr. Guay, for Mr. Tarte.)

Return showing the quantities and kinds of timber and sawlogs cut annually in the lately Disputed Territory, in the Province of Ontario, under the authority of timber licenses issued by the Government of Canada; the names of such licensees; and showing also how the dues were imposed, and the amount per thousand feet, board measure, realized by the Government of Canada from each person or firm so licensed in each year from 1875 to 1887, inclusive; or what royalty or other revenue was received by the Government from licensees aforesaid on such quantities cut or sold.—(Mr. Barron.)

Copies of the Order in Council of date the 10th May, 1888, granting a subsidy of \$12,500 per annum to Mr. Julien Chabot, for the use of the steamboat *Admiral*, between Dalhousie and Gaspé, in connection with the Intercolonial Railway;—and also of all other Orders in Council which may have been passed afterwards in respect to the same steamboat.—(Mr. Guay, for Mr. Tarte.)

Copies of the contract with the owners or owner, or the party in possession of the steamboat *Admiral*, made by the Government in consequence of an Order in Council bearing date the 10th of May, 1888; also of the contracts, deeds or transfers which may have been executed or notified to the Government, since the said date of the 10th May, 1888; also a statement of the sums paid out for the use of the said steamboat; the names of the persons to whom these sums have been paid; and the date of the payments and of the receipts which have been given therefor.—(Mr. Guay, for Mr. Tarte.)

Copy of the report of H. F. Perley, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, respecting the causes of the flooding by the waters of the Richelieu River, of the lands of the riparian owners, in the Counties of Iberville, St. John and Missisquoi.—(Mr. Béchard.)

Return showing the contingent expenses of the several salaried postmasters of this Dominion for the fiscal years 1888, 1889 and 1890.—(Mr. McMullen.)

Return showing the number of votes polled for the respective candidates in the several Electoral Districts and in the various sub-divisions thereof, together with the number of ballots rejected and spoiled in each and every sub-division at the last general election, specifying the cases in which a recount of votes was had and the changes made in respect thereof, giving the report of the returning officer in each case; also the number of electors on the revised electoral lists in each riding, the total in all, together with the population as shown by the census of 1881 and of 1891, of each and every such district and sub-division, giving the total population of Canada in both periods named.—(Mr. Landerkin.)

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 6 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 6th May, 1891.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRIVATE BILLS—EXTENSION OF TIME.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved:

That as the time for receiving petitions for Private Bills will expire on Friday, the 8th instant, the same be extended until Friday, the 22nd instant.

He said: The custom is that a motion of this kind should be made in ordinary times on the report of the committee, and the rule of the House in reference to it reads as follows:—

“Except in cases of urgent and pressing necessity, no motion for the suspension or modification of any rule

applying to Private Bills or Petitions for Private Bills shall be entertained by the House until after references made to the several Standing Committees charged with the consideration of Private Bills and a report made thereon by one or more of such Committees."

No committee has yet been appointed, and, as the House ceases to sit this evening until Monday next, this motion becomes necessary.

Motion agreed to.

REPORTS.

Annual Report of the Minister of Justice on Penitentiaries.—(Sir John Thompson.)

Annual Report of the Department of Fisheries.—(S. T. Tupper.)

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 11) to enable an accused person to give evidence on his own behalf.—(Mr. Cameron, Huron.)

FISHERY BOUNTY CHEQUES.

Mr. FLINT asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government, in future, to have the fishery bounty cheques issued and in course of distribution previous to the 5th day of March, in each year?

Mr. TUPPER. It is the intention of the Government to have the bounty distributed before the 5th day of March in each year.

ANIMALS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. CHOQUETTE asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to allow the entry into Canada free of duty of animals from the United States, for the purpose of their being slaughtered at Three Rivers or at any other place in the Dominion?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That subject is now engaging the attention of the Government.

KAMINISTIQUIA RIVER—DREDGING.

Mr. CAMPBELL asked, Whether any dredging has been done on the Bar or in the Kaministiquia River, Thunder Bay, since July, 1890; if so, were tenders invited for such work; how many tenders were received; what was the amount of the highest and lowest tender; was the lowest tender accepted; if not, why not? To whom was the contract awarded, and what was the amount of the successful tender? What progress has been made with the work, and what amount has been paid on account of said contract?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The answer to this question will require documents to be read, and I would ask the hon. gentleman to put it in the form of a notice of motion.

Mr. CAMPBELL. With the consent of the House, I would ask to let the question stand as a motion.

TWO CENT LETTER POSTAGE.

Mr. INNES (for Mr. SOMERVILLE) asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to reduce letter postage to two cents?

Mr. HAGGART. That matter is at present under the consideration of the Government.

P. E. I. BREAKWATERS.

Mr. PERRY asked, What amount of wharfage dues has been collected at Tignish breakwater, Prince Edward Island, during the year 1890?

Mr. TUPPER. No return of the wharfage dues collected for the year 1890 has yet reached the Department.

Mr. PERRY asked, Whether tenders have been asked for, for new works at Miminigash breakwater, Prince Edward Island? If so, is the contract let? And to whom, and for what amount? When is the contract to be completed?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Tenders were asked for by public advertisement, dated the 10th of December, 1890, for extending and strengthening the south pier. The contract has been awarded to Alexander Macdonald for \$2,000, and it is to be completed within seven months from the date of the contract.

Mr. PERRY asked, What amount of money has been expended repairing Miminigash breakwater, Prince Edward Island, during the year 1890? Who was the inspector? What amount was he paid for his services?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The amount expended during the year was \$550.71. The foreman was Michael McElroy. The amount paid him was \$65.

THE DOMINION CENSUS.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell) (for Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT) asked, How soon does the Government expect to receive returns of the number of the inhabitants of the Dominion?

Mr. HAGGART. The enumeration in connection with the census of 1881 commenced on the 4th of April of that year, and the result as to population was announced at the end of July of the same year. It is probable that the information asked for will be obtained this year at about the same time.

FISHERY INSPECTOR, DISTRICT No. 3, N.S.

Mr. FLINT asked, Whether the Inspector of Fisheries for District No. 3, in the Province of Nova Scotia, did, previously to the 5th day of March last, resign that office? If so, the date of such resignation; and whether the vacancy created by such resignation has yet been filled? If so, the name of the appointee and the date of his appointment?

Mr. TUPPER. The Inspector of Fisheries for that district did resign his office on the 25th of February, 1891. The vacancy created by that resignation has been filled. The name of the appointee is J. R. Pinhey. The date of his appointment was the 26th of March, 1891.

NEW SAFE IN FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. McMULLEN asked, What is the entire cost of the new safe put in the Finance Department, including putting it in? Were tenders asked for? How many tenders were sent in? Whose tender was the lowest? How much did Messrs. Goldie & McCulloch, Galt, get for the safe?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The entire cost of the new vault in the Finance Department, includin

the stone foundation, the cutting of the floors, etc., was \$44,468. Tenders were asked on the 14th of November, 1889. Threetenders were received. The tender of Goldie & McCulloch, of Galt, Ontario, was the lowest, the amount being \$29,750. The amounts paid to Goldie & McCulloch were: for erection and supply of vault, \$29,750; and iron and steel boxes for each side of the vault, \$3,627.40; making altogether \$33,377.40. The other two tenders were those made by F. Toms, Ottawa, \$36,850, and J. & J. Taylor, of Toronto, \$37,942, both of which were higher than the accepted tender, with boxes included.

IMPERIAL POSTAL UNION.

Mr. DENISON asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to approach the Imperial authorities with a view to establish a uniform Imperial two cent postage rate between all parts of the Empire?

Mr. HAGGART. The Government are at present engaged in considering the subject to which the hon. gentleman's question refers.

ELECTION RETURNS.

Mr. LANDERKIN moved for:

Return giving the date of the declaration in every riding during the recent General Election. If adjournments or enlargements were made, in any case, from the time fixed at the nominations, stating where, when, how often and for what reason, and giving the name and address of the returning officer where such occurred; also, giving the name, occupation and post office address of every returning officer; showing the date of return by returning officer to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and the date of receipt of each by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery; together with the name of the electoral district and the member elected thereto, and the date of publication of his return in the *Canada Gazette*.

He said: Before the motion is put, I desire in a few words to state my reasons for making it. It has become notorious that irregularities have crept into the method of holding our elections, and that delays have occurred without good and sufficient reasons. In the election just passed the returning officer in the riding which I have the honour to represent announced that the declaration would be made a week after the election had taken place. I think, in the riding of East Bruce the declaration took place on the Monday following the election. In East Grey, I believe, it took place on the Monday following the election, and in North Grey on the Thursday following, a week after, as in my own case. In North Bruce it took place on the following Monday, and I notice also that in the gazetting, although the declaration in East Bruce took place at the same date as in North Bruce, the member for North Bruce was gazetted one week before the member for East Bruce; and in the case of North Grey, where the declaration took place at the same date as it did in South Grey, the member for North Grey was gazetted one week before the member for South Grey. And in the cases of North Bruce, North Grey and East Grey, the gazetting of three members took place on the 14th March, nine days after the election, and in one case two days after the declaration. I do not know whether this is according to law or not, but I want to enquire into the matter. If it is, the law should be remedied so that justice and fair-play may prevail. It is very desirable, if there is any advantage to be

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN.

gained, that all should enjoy it in common; and if there are any disadvantages arising out of the system let them be removed. All parties should unite in obtaining fair-play in the conduct of elections and in the gazetting. I do not know why my election should be gazetted one week after the election in East Grey, when in reality my returning officer lives nearer Ottawa than the returning officer for East Grey. It does seem to me very peculiar that such a system should prevail, and that the Government should allow it to continue. We are here in a British colony where fair-play should be the rule. If the law allows the Government to take unfair advantage, the law should be altered. It does not make much difference to me whether I am gazetted earlier or later, but it is desirable that justice should be dealt out to all in the same measure. I want to find out how this is done, and for that reason I make this motion.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I think this subject is entitled to some consideration. I notice that in a large number of instances considerable delay occurred between the day of election and the day of declaration. In some cases, no doubt, that is due to the fact that the returning officers undertook to make the most out of the elections, and instructed their deputies to retain the ballot boxes until they were called for instead of sending them in at once. In my own constituency the declaration was made a week after the day of the election, whereas in other constituencies, quite as large, it was made the third or fourth day after the election. The law requires that:

"The returning officer shall, immediately after the sixth day after the final addition by him, unless before that time he receives notice that he is required to attend before a judge for the purpose of a final addition or recount by such judge of the votes given at the election, transmit his return to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery."

Now, I know in the County of Bothwell that was not done. The election was held on the 5th of March, and the declaration was made on the 12th March, and the returning officer, instead of making his return immediately after the expiration of the sixth day, waited until the eleventh day, and made his return after the Saturday had gone by on which the *Canada Gazette* is published. He made his return upon the Monday following, knowing that another week would have to elapse before publication in the *Gazette* could take place. That is a gross abuse on the part of the returning officer of the duty imposed upon him by law. Under the 105th section of the Election Act it is provided:

"That every officer and clerk who is guilty of any wilful misfeasance or any wilful act or omission in violation of this Act shall forfeit to any person aggrieved by such misfeasance, act or omission, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, in addition to the amount of actual damages thereby occasioned to such persons."

I know that in the case I mentioned in my constituency the returning officer has made himself liable to that provision of the law, but what is the use of bringing an action against a man who has nothing? The House should see that it is not in the power of the Administration to appoint any man as returning officer who is not a responsible man and from whom the penalties imposed by law cannot be collected. Certainly this House owes it to every member to see that the law is honestly and fairly carried out. In many cases it has been violated in the way I have mentioned. After the elections of 1887 we had the Clerk of the Crown in

Chancery keeping back the returns, contrary to law. That has not been repeated on this occasion, but a different course has been pursued. It is the returning officer who has kept back the returns now, and so the same mischief which was inflicted in 1887 by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery has been inflicted in the present instance upon many members of this House by the returning officers. I think that this is a gross abuse, and one which ought not to be tolerated. If there is any law which ought to be fairly administered, it is the law relating to elections; and I am satisfied that hon. members on this side of the House have great reason to complain of the course pursued by persons appointed as returning officers.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Every returning officer must be held responsible for any irregularity or impropriety in the performance of his duty.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). But if he is worth nothing?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We can alter that. "If he has not goods to find, he may have a pledge to bind," as the saying is. It does not at all follow that because returns do not come in the same day or by the same mail that there has been any impropriety. Hon. gentlemen know there are very many cases of delay. I have no objection that the law should be altered, if necessary, to prevent any misuse or abuse of the powers conferred on the returning officers. There was no abuse in my case. The returning officer was a personal friend of mine, and a political friend of mine, but he was the sheriff of the county, and therefore would be acceptable to hon. gentlemen opposite. That he was a political friend of mine is not my fault, because he was elected at one time as a supporter of mine from the County of Frontenac. Still, there was a delay in my return, though I was elected, and possibly my return ought to have been announced in the first *Gazette*. I do not know why that was not done. I know that I have had the pleasure of having a protest served upon me, and, if I had appeared in the first *Gazette*, I might have been saved that pleasure. No doubt there was some reason for the delay, and no doubt other returning officers may have had equally good reasons. It may be that deputy returning officers have not made up their returns in proper time, or the delay may be caused by some other irregularities. I quite agree with the mover of this resolution and with my hon. friend who has just spoken, that all possible means should be taken to provide that there should be equal fair-play to both sides. When the return is made, we will be able to see better than we can now what the reasons are which are assigned for the delays and alleged irregularities in sending to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery the return of the returning officer. There is a plethora of motions connected not only with the franchise, but also with the whole electoral system, on the paper, and I have no doubt that, before the session is over, we will be able to consider this subject and arrive at means to cure it beyond the possibility of abuse.

Mr. CHARLTON. It is true, as the First Minister informs us, that returns cannot always come in at the same time and by the same mail. Circumstances will necessarily occur to delay the returns in many cases. He suggests that we may

look to the returning officers for a redress of our grievances, but there is a suspicion in the minds of many members that some returning officers have been acting—not necessarily in collusion with the Government—

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Certainly not.

Mr. CHARLTON—but in collusion with the party to which they belong. The return from the north riding of Norfolk, which I represent, was made on the 9th March, and the return from the south riding of the same county on the 12th March. I received my certificate on the 16th March, and my return was gazetted on the 4th April, while the return of the supporter of the Government from South Norfolk was not gazetted until a week afterwards.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is a very suspicious circumstance, I admit.

Mr. CHARLTON. It is said that the returning officer was sick at the time, but he was able to make the return, at all events. Whether the delay was inadvertent or by purpose, I do not know, but it took place. I am happy to hear my hon. friend the First Minister state that he will take measures to rectify these abuses and to see that they do not occur again.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I know professionally that the returning officer for North Norfolk was very sick indeed. The papers were given to his clerk, and, through some inadvertence, I suppose, on the part of the clerk, they were not sent at once; but I know that the returning officer was not only confined to his bed, but was very seriously ill at that time.

Mr. AMYOT. I think that, some few years ago, the Minister of Justice proposed to bring down a measure to fix the period of delay within which an election could be protested. That is the only cure for this evil. When there are 215 returning officers there will necessarily be some mistakes made and some faults. It would be better to cure the fault from which this arises. The Government has in its hands a very good means of curing this trouble, at least partially—that would be that they should decide not to contest the elections which have been protested within the last week.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The hon. gentleman is mistaken in regard to my promise to bring down a measure.

Mr. AMYOT. We will consult the *Hansard* next time.

Mr. McMULLEN. The election took place on the 5th March. I was gazetted on the 4th or 5th April, a month after, but I have no fault to find with the returning officer in my riding, because there were six of the deputy returning officers who had neglected to sign the returns, and he had to adjourn for a week. Then there was a severe snow storm which shut up the roads. I mention this as I would not like any reflection to be cast upon the returning officer in my riding, because I think he did what he could to carry out the law.

Mr. MULOCK. I have no complaint to make against my returning officer. In fact, I have never had any ground to complain about the manner in which the officials in my riding have carried out their duties. The riding which I represent is inhabited by a very intelligent people, as you may

observe, and they are an incorruptible people. If that were not so I might not be here now. I believe there was no delay on the part of my returning officer, or, if there were any, it was not his fault. I desire to move in amendment, with the consent of my hon. friend, to add the following to the motion:—

Also copies of all letters written by or on behalf of any member of the Government, to any member-elect or to any other person or persons, suggesting that any returning officer be asked to delay making his return to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery."

Motion agreed to.

RETURNS ORDERED.

Return showing the cost of construction of the several elevators built on the Intercolonial Railway and branches; showing where erected and the capacity of each; the date of erection and the quantity of grain that passed through each of them, each year, since their completion.—(Mr. McMullen.)

Return of the Receipts and Expenditures in detail, chargeable to the Consolidated Fund, from the 1st day of May, 1890, to 1st day of May, 1891; and comparative statements from 1st July, 1889, to 1st May, 1890.—(Sir Richard Cartwright.)

Return in the form used in the statements usually published in the *Gazette* of the Exports and Imports from 1st day of May, 1890, to 1st day of May, 1891, distinguishing the products of Canada and those of other countries; and comparative statements from 1st July, 1889, to 1st May, 1890.—(Sir Richard Cartwright.)

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 4.15 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 11th May, 1891.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

REPORT.

Report of the Department of Militia and Defence, for the year ending 31st December, 1890.—(Sir Adolphe Caron.)

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD presented the Report of the Special Committee appointed to report the lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees of this House, as follows:—

ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

Messieurs

Adams,	Langelier,
Amyot,	Langevin (Sir Hector),
Baker,	Laurier,
Barron,	Lavergne,
Beausoleil,	Lister,
Burdett,	Macdonald (Sir John),
Cameron (Huron),	McCarthy,
Chapleau,	McDonald (Victoria),
Coatsworth,	McLeod,
Costigan,	Mills (Bothwell),
Curran,	Moncrieff,
Davies,	Mulock,
Desaulniers,	Quimet,

Mr. MULLOCK.

Dickey,	Pelletier,
Edgar,	Préfontaine,
Flint,	Ross (Lisgar)
Fraser,	Tarte,
German,	Thompson (Sir John),
Girouard,	Tupper,
Ives,	Weldon, and
Kirkpatrick,	Wood (Brockville).—42.

ON EXPIRING LAWS.

Messieurs

Cameron (Inverness),	Henderson,
Carroll,	Hutchins,
Colter,	King,
Corbould,	LaRivière,
Daoust,	Legris,
Dawson,	McDonald (Victoria),
Delisle,	Reid,
Dugas,	Robillard,
Dyer,	Ryckman,
Ferguson (Renfrew),	Savard,
Flint,	Simard,
Gillies,	Somerville,
Grieve,	Temple, and
Hargraft,	Tyrwhitt.—28.

And that the Quorum of said Committee do consist of Seven Members.

ON RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES.

Messieurs

Adams,	Landerkin,
Allan,	Langelier,
Allison,	Langevin (Sir Hector),
Amyot,	LaRivière,
Armstrong,	Laurier,
Bain,	Lavergne,
Baker,	Leduc,
Barnard,	Léger,
Barron,	Lepine,
Beausoleil,	Lippe,
Bechard,	Lister,
Bergeron,	Livingston,
Bergin,	Macdonald (Sir John),
Bernier,	Macdonald (King's),
Borden,	Macdonald (Winnipeg),
Bourassa,	Mackenzie,
Bowman,	Mackintosh,
Brown (Chateauguay),	McAlister,
Brown (Monck),	McCarthy,
Burdett,	McDougald (Picton),
Burnham,	McDougald (Capre Breton),
Burns,	McGreevy,
Cameron (Inverness),	McGregor,
Campbell,	McKay,
Carignan,	McKeen,
Carpenter,	McLean,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),	McLennan,
Cartwright (Sir Richard),	McLeod,
Casey,	McMillan,
Chapleau,	McMullen,
Charlton,	Madill,
Choquette,	Mara,
Christie,	Masson,
Coatsworth,	Mignault,
Cochrane,	Miller,
Cockburn,	Mills (Annapolis),
Colter,	Mills (Bothwell),
Corby,	Montague,
Costigan,	Mousseau,
Craig,	Mulock,
Curran,	Murray,
Daly,	Quimet,
Daoust,	Patterson (Colchester),