

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said that the returns required by law and by the regulations of the Grand Trunk Railway Company have been made regularly, and no complaint having been made to the Government, and nothing unusual under the law, appearing to the Government, no investigation has taken place. As for the irregularities in the delivery of the mails I may say that up to the very severe weather we have had, the Grand Trunk Railway carried the mails with greater regularity than they did last year. Of course during the severe weather we have had, the Grand Trunk Railway was subject to the same delays as other lines. With respect to the last, I may say that Mr. Brydges is still employed by the Government.

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SUPREME COURT

Mr. BLAKE asked whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce this session a measure for the creation of a Supreme Court.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the subject was under consideration.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON: It has been under consideration.

Mr. BLAKE: It has been decided in two former sessions.

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SALES OF CLERGY RESERVES

Mr. THOMPSON (Ontario North) asked when the remainder of the return to an Address, of 25th of April last, as to the amount accrued from the sales of the Clergy Reserves in Upper Canada, since the Act 18 Vic., Cap. 2, a statement of amounts paid each municipality annually, in Upper Canada, and the amounts now due to them respectively, under the authority thereof, will be laid before the House.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said that return will be sent down very shortly.

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PATENT ACT

Mr. OLIVER asked whether it is the intention of the Government during the present session of Parliament to introduce a Bill to amend the Patent Act.

Hon. Mr. DUNKIN said it was not the intention of the Government at present to bring down any amendment.

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NEWSPAPER POSTAGE

Mr. DELORME asked whether the Government intends during this Session to bring down any measure for the abolition of Postage

on newspapers published in Canada, and sent to subscribers in Canada.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD replied that it was not the intention of the Government, this Session, to bring down any such measure. The revenue of the Post Office Department had been considerably diminished by the reduction in the rates of postage, from five to three cents, and the Government did not feel themselves in a position to make any further reductions.

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THE FAMINE IN FRANCE

Mr. FOURNIER asked whether it is the intention of the Government to ask for an appropriation in aid of those who are suffering from the famine caused by the disastrous war which has desolated France.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD replied that this was a subject which had been under the consideration of the Government for some time. Some weeks before the fall of Paris, the subject had been brought before Government as one of interest not only to Canada, but to the whole world—it was now of world-wide interest. The Government did not propose to ask this House to vote any money for the purpose, but as far as in their power lay, they would follow the example set by Her Majesty's Government in England and by the Government of the United States. The Government in England had put the whole transport service at the disposal of the people of England for the transportation of the most munificent contributions they were now sending to the relief of the suffering people of France. It was the intention of the Canadian Government, with the consent of Parliament, to ask for aid in the transmission of any contributions from any part of Canada for the purpose.

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BAIE VERTE CANAL

Mr. BURPEE asked whether the surveys and report of the same of the proposed Canal between the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy (so important to the trade of the Dominion) will be completed in time to admit of its being laid before this House at its present Session?

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN: The survey is not yet completed. The Surveying and engineering party is expected back about the 10th of next month, and we hope to be able to obtain their report in time to submit it to the House before the end of the Session.

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TWENTY-CENT PIECES

Mr. CHEVAL asked whether it is the intention of the Government to adopt such measures as may appear to them expedient to withdraw from circulation the silver twenty cent coins, which are a nuisance to the public, as we have now in circulation twenty-five cent coins?