

amendment is proposed in order to avoid all question in regard to the matter, and to avoid all possible collision between the Provincial and Dominion Governments in regard to it.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I suppose even Ontario will participate?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Even Ontario will participate.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

LETTER POSTAGE.

Mr. HESSON enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to reduce the rate of postage on letters to two cents per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.?

Mr. CARLING. It is not the intention of the Government during the present Session to reduce the postage on letters to two cents.

PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Mr. LANDRY (Montmagny) moved for:

Copies of all Orders in Council, instructions given, reports of engineers, and all documents whatsoever, in relation to the selection of the shortest and best line for a railway between the present terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway and one of the seaports of the Maritime Provinces.

He said (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to deal lengthily with this question, at this stage of the Session, for I understand that the papers, on which any debate ought to be based, to be of advantage to public interest generally, and to the Province of Quebec in particular, have not yet been brought down. But I take this opportunity of calling the attention of the Government to a certain rumor, now in circulation, and of which it is expedient to inform the Government. It has been recently stated that an exploration had been made from St. Charles station on the Intercolonial towards the Seven Island through the fifth or sixth range of the township of Montmagny. By taking this line we reach a certain knoll, a certain hill, whose summit is about 400 feet above the ordinary level in those parts. It seems a report on this question has been made to the Government who gave instruction to the explorer, Mr. Light, to discontinue the exploration. In spite of that, according to the rumor, the engineer took upon himself to make an exploration by going round the mountain, and discovered a route just as short, and even shorter, than the proposed line, if the grade is taken into consideration. Nevertheless, rumor has it—I do not wish to affirm anything, but rumors are always allowed to be repeated—that the Government have not yet given, or does not wish to give, instructions to this engineer to the effect that what is called an instrumental survey should be made on this new line. I wish to call the attention of the Government to these facts, at this stage of the Session, so that they may not, at a more advanced stage, come to us and say: We have encountered insuperable difficulties. Indeed, these difficulties are not unconquerable, as the Government may see for themselves, by referring to the last reports fyled by Mr. Light, the engineer. These are the only remarks I shall make to-day, and I have deemed it my duty to make them, so that I may not be charged, later on, with having failed to make them in proper time.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the hon. Minister who is in charge of the Railway Department, is not present, but I shall not fail to repeat to him the remarks just made by the hon. member. I am convinced that he will be most happy to receive the information just given, and that he will not fail to give the necessary instructions.

Motion agreed to.

RETURN ORDERED.

Copies of all correspondence between the Federal and Ontario Governments and the Imperial Government, on the subject of the Imperial Act, 21-22 Victoria, Chapter 90, known as the British Medical Act, 1858; the Imperial Act 31-32 Victoria, Chapter 29, known as the British Medical Amendment Act, 1868; the Imperial Act 41-42 Victoria, Chapter 33, known as the Dentists' Act, 1878; and the amendments proposed to be made thereto, during the present Session of the Imperial Parliament.—(Mr. Bergin.)

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

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 4th February, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). It was understood yesterday that I should to-day move the adoption of the report of the Committee on the Debates of this House. I may say that information has reached me since the report was presented, which will lead me to propose to refer the first part of it back to the Committee for further consideration—that is, the part having reference to the resignation of the head of the French translators' staff, the appointment of another in his place, and the appointment of another translator to fill the vacancy. I propose only to move, therefore, the other part of the report, which it is important to pass upon at once, because it involves a change in the distribution of the reports, and we ought to know the result as soon as possible. I beg, therefore, to move:

That so much of the first report of the Select Committee appointed to supervise the report of the Debates of this House during the present Session, as refers to the daily issue and the distribution of the bound copies of the said report, be adopted.

I may say that the effect of this, so far as the cost is concerned—and I have got the figures made up by the Printing Department—will be an annual saving of about \$1,072. Last year we agreed to give to each member of the House five copies of the bound Report; this year some members of the Committee have had communication during the Recess with a number of members of the press, who have complained that the unrevised copies that are sent to the newspapers throughout the Dominion, are of practically little use, because they are not revised or corrected; that they may in fact be led into serious error by the Report—and none but serious errors are permitted to be corrected—and it may thus through the newspapers become the permanent record of that serious error in respect to the member of any particular constituency. Journalists would greatly prefer to have the perfected copies sent to them at the end of the Session, and give up altogether the daily distribution. With the view of accomplishing that end without adding to the cost, it is thought that the members will agree to give up three of their copies. Last year it was agreed to give five bound copies of *The Debates* to each member, so that they might be able to distribute some of them among their constituents; but I think experience has shown that the three or four extra copies for each member is not enough to make a satisfactory distribution, but just enough to make it really embarrassing. It is desirable to give bound copies to libraries, mechanics' in-