

places to make borings and ascertain the results. There are also no doubt valuable salt wells in Manitoba. Along the western shores of Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis salt springs have been known to exist from early days, and half breeds made all the salt they used from those springs which are on the surface, and I have no doubt by boring very valuable salt wells would be discovered. With the present long haul of salt from the Eastern Provinces, salt would be very valuable as well as petroleum. Moreover, salt will no doubt be required in the future for farming purposes. I agree with the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) that a certain portion of these valuable deposits should be reserved for the public use; I would not favor the reserving of all the territory because enterprise should be encouraged in prosecuting the work. In Manitoba there have been discoveries of coal, and in south Manitoba a company has been formed to open up and develop a coal mine at Turtle Mountain. Much good would undoubtedly be done by such an expenditure being made, and better results might be obtained than from spending the money on the Geological Survey. I hope the Government will consider the matter favorably, and in the near future make the tests of which I have spoken. They will undoubtedly be in the interest of the whole Dominion in addition to benefiting the particular localities in which they are made.

Resolutions reported.

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

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 1:30 a.m. (Saturday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 8th April, 1889.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 126) to amend the Summary Convictions Act, chapter 178 of the Revised Statutes, and the Act amending the same (from the Senate).—(Sir John Thompson.)

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY—PETITION.

Mr. SHANLY asked, Has the Government received any petitions from the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway Company? If so, has any action been taken, or will any action be taken thereon, by the Government?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. A petition was received on the 12th March, 1889, from the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway, protesting against the granting of subsidies to railways which duplicate and compete with existing lines. No action could, of course, be taken on this petition, but it will be considered when any railway claims are laid before Parliament.

ST. GEORGE'S BRIDGE—STRUCTURAL DEFECTS.

Mr. MULOCK asked, Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article in the *Engineer*, copied into last week's *Scientific American*, pointing out the structural defects in the St. George Bridge whereby the recent disaster might be accounted for? Whether any steps are being taken as to other railway bridges, to see whether they are also structurally defective for the reasons

therein contained? Has the Government received any report from their inspecting officer on the subject of the disaster, and would it be in the public interest that such report should be brought down?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The attention of the Government has not been drawn by any one to this matter except by the notice of the hon. gentleman. No steps have yet been taken with regard to other railway bridges, but this subject will be attended to. The Government have not received any report from the inspecting officer on the subject of the disaster.

VICTORIA BRIDGE.

Mr. AMYOT asked, What is the total cost of the Victoria Bridge; the yearly outlay for its maintenance and management, and the yearly revenue it yields?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Government have no means of knowing what the total cost of the Victoria Bridge is, except by application to the Grand Trunk Railway Company. I have no doubt if the hon. gentleman will apply to Mr. Hickson, he will give him every information.

LA CLOCHE ISLAND—PROVINCIAL CLAIMS.

Mr. BARRON asked, Did G. W. Burbidge, Esq., then the Deputy Minister of Justice, or any subsequent Deputy Minister of Justice, ever give an opinion, in accordance with the request of the acting Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, bearing date 19th June, 1882, preferred a second time on the 13th April, 1883, relating to the respective claims of the Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of Ontario to the Island of La Cloche and other Islands referred to in the despatch of the Under Secretary of State to the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, under date of 30th May, 1882? If yes, what was the date of the opinion? To whom was it directed? Was it in favor of the contention of the Government of Ontario, as set forth in the said despatch of 30th May, 1882? Was it in favor of the contention of the Dominion Government, as set forth in the memorandum of the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, bearing date the 13th June, 1882? If no opinion was given, why not?

Mr. DEWDNEY. The Deputy Minister of Justice did give an opinion. The letter giving said opinion was dated on 30th April, 1883; it was directed to the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. The opinion was not favorable to the contention of the Ontario Government, in so far as La Cloche and other islands in the vicinity of Manitoulin Island were concerned. The opinion was favorable to the Dominion Government's claim to the La Cloche, and other islands in the vicinity of Manitoulin Island, and on the north shore of Lake Huron, but not to those on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay; but without more exact information the Deputy Minister of Justice expressed himself as unable to give a positive opinion as to the claim of the Ontario Government to the Islands last referred to.

LAKE ERIE BASS FISHING PERMITS.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, Have permits been given to the Long Point Company or to any members of the same, to take bass in the waters of Lake Erie, at Long Point or elsewhere, during any part of the close season? Have permits been given to any company or individuals, to take bass in the waters of Lake Erie, at or near Pelee Island, during any part of the close season?