

Red Point, in King's County, Prince Edward Island, in compliance with a petition presented to the Department of Public Works?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The Department is not in possession of the necessary information to be able to say whether they would recommend the construction of a break-water there; but, most likely, we shall be able, next season, to cause an examination to be made, and to have a report made to the Department.

PUBLIC BUILDING AT SOREL.

Mr. MASSUE enquired, Whether the Government proposes to construct, this year, in the town of Sorel, a public building for the purpose of bringing together therein all the public offices?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The Government has not yet taken into consideration the question of erecting a public building in the town of Sorel, but it has the intention of having the matter looked into during recess, and will send some one to Sorel to report in what state are the buildings occupied by public departments in that town.

SUPREME COURT APPEALS.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving that it is expedient that in appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada, the printed records in the Courts below should be accepted for the purpose of the appeal without requiring the reprint of the same matter, said: In this matter it is to be observed that the appeals from the two larger Provinces—the Province of Ontario and the Province of Quebec—to the Supreme Court are from Provincial Courts of Appeal, which Provincial Courts of Appeal, according to their regulations, require the printing of the matter necessary to the determination of the appeal, and the effect of the system at present adopted by the Supreme Court is to impose upon the suitor a wholly unnecessary and very heavy expense. I regret to be obliged to bring this matter under the consideration of the House, but it will be remembered that this is not done hastily, because some years ago the subject was brought to the attention of the Court itself, and subsequently it was discussed in Parliament, and still after that, upon the occasion of the debate with reference to the abolition of the Supreme Court, two years ago, I referred to the same subject in these words:

"There are some points in regard to which discussion has been had formally in this House by which expenses have been reduced. I believe, for example, it would be a proper thing to provide in regard to all cases in which the Court below required that the proceedings shall be printed, that the Supreme Court should accept the printed books and papers. That would involve a very considerable saving."

Notwithstanding these various suggestions, to which I believe there was no dissent, and to which I believe the concurrence and support of the profession in the two Provinces was given, there has not been any action, and the result as I have said, have been cases involving very considerable expense. The system of printing is one which, as those conversant with it well know, involves an enormous expense for a few extra copies of the printed documents. If you order, as in the Court below they usually order thirty or forty copies in excess of the required number, and the printer will supply fifty or sixty copies for the same price, as I am informed by professional persons, whose duty it is to obtain these prints, and under any circumstances, the extra price is but the cost of the white paper and press work, a mere nominal cost. The cost is \$1.50 a page according to the usual tariff charges, and, therefore, if you assume that the printed matter in the Court below in an ordinary appeal case is about thirty pages, which I fancy will not be an unreasonable assumption, though I do not speak with authority on that

Mr. MUTTART.

point, there is involved an expense of \$45 for reprinting, which is utterly unnecessary. But that is not all, nor is it the larger part of the expense, because the tariff of fees which is prescribed by the Court includes a charge of 30 cents for every 100 words to the lawyer, for the consideration of and settlement and work of his in connection with the printing of the case. If his work were, as it ought to be, to shorten the case, it is not a very good way to pay by the page, because it is no work at all to leave the case as it was, and for every page he shortens it you take about \$2 from his remuneration. Human nature will tell you that, under those circumstances, the cases are not shortened, and that what happens—if not invariably, almost invariably, I believe invariably—is, that we have a reprint of the appeal case below, with a certain small addition, a title page, the judgment of the Court below, and a few little et ceteras of that kind added, which of course are necessary and must be paid for. The extra expense to the suitor, in addition to the cost per page, amounts to something close upon \$2 more per page, or for an appeal case of thirty pages in the Court below, to \$100, which is literally thrown away. There is no useful purpose whatever secured by the expenditure of that \$100. My attention was particularly called to the injustice worked by this system, by a large example of it which recently occurred. There was a very heavy case tried in the Court of Appeals of Ontario, which came to the Supreme Court. The book in that case numbers no less than 912 pages, the printing of which cost \$1,368, in the Ontario Court of Appeals. It would have cost no more to have brought that case to the Supreme Court if the books had been accepted, than the price of twenty-six extra pages, which, with fees and charges, would amount to \$50 or \$60. What did it cost? A contract, at a reduced rate, was made for the printing, owing to exceptional circumstances, so that the modest sum, not of \$1,368, but of \$912 was thrown away in printing. But that is a thing, I am informed, that cannot be repeated, and for the future, if this system continues, we must expect to pay \$1.50 per page, or a total sum of \$1,378. But the tariff allows, as I have said, \$1.93 per page for those 912 pages, the average number of words on a page being 645; and that would add about \$1,730 more for the printing of that case, or an aggregate expense of \$2,645, to hand into the Supreme Court a fresh print of the matter which had been already printed. Now, it seems to me a disgrace that such a transaction should occur, and most outrageous that suitors should be called upon to pay those large sums for no useful purpose whatever. We ought to agree, I think, that every expenditure, for which there is a reason, should be wholly cut away, and that for those expenditures and services which are useful, reasonable remuneration should be paid; but to continue a system under which there is to be a reprint, the cost of reprinting and of lawyer's expenses in connection with it, amount to \$3.50 for every page, seems to me, as I have observed, nothing less than monstrous. It is for these reasons I move this resolution.

Mr. CAMERON (Victoria). I do not think there is any difference of opinion regarding the adoption of the motion of my hon. friend; but, perhaps, there may be a difference of opinion as to whether it is within our functions, and worthy of the dignity of this House, to go into matters of detail such as this is, the subject-matter of which is within the control of the Supreme Court, which can itself order and accomplish the whole object that the hon. member seeks to obtain. All the Supreme Court has to do is to pass an order to the effect that the books printed for the Court below will be received by them, as far as they are good, and that it is unnecessary to reprint them. I hope it is hardly necessary for this House, I venture to doubt whether it is quite consistent with its dignity, to enter into a discussion