

PURCHASE OF THE 'NIOBE.'

Mr. FOSTER. I direct the attention of the Prime Minister to a question which has been up two or three times, and as to which the Prime Minister promised an answer would be given in the course of the explanations upon the Naval Bill. It would appear from the statement made by the Minister of Militia that the government has already purchased the 'Niobe' for over \$1,000,000. Parliament has been sitting here since November, the government has not a shadow of a vote for any such expenditure, and the Prime Minister has not seen fit to acquaint the House with what he is doing. He seems to be entering into an arrangement to spend the people's money without having had any parliamentary authority and he has been doing it for two and a half months while the members of parliament, who ought to have something to say in what is going on, are deprived of all information. The Prime Minister promised that full information would be given, but he omitted to do so when moving the second reading of the Bill, and the Minister of Militia did not deal with the question either.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend will see when the correspondence has been brought down, that it is subject to the approval of parliament. The correspondence is now completed and it will be brought down at an early date, perhaps to-morrow.

WATERWAYS TREATY.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Has the Prime Minister anything further to announce with regard to the present position of the waterways treaty?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No; it is in the same position.

PRIVATE BILLS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 142) to incorporate the Congregational Union of Canada.—Mr. A. Haggart.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 27) respecting the British North American Mining Company.—Mr. Geoffrion.

Bill (No. 133) to incorporate the Merchants Bank of Canada Pension Fund.—Mr. Doherty.

Bill (No. 117) for the relief of George Robert Buttonshaw.—Mr. Campbell.

Bill (No. 134) for the relief of Hope Eileen Moreland Drinkle.—Mr. McCarthy.

Bill (No. 43) respecting the Hudson Bay Insurance Company.—Mr. Knowles.

DOMINION MILLERS' ASSOCIATION.

House in Committee on Bill (No. 111) respecting the Dominion Millers' Association.—Mr. Harris.

On section 2, subsection (b).

Mr. LENNOX. I observe that the words 'for the purposes of its business only' are introduced in this section. That phrase differs from the phrase regularly used in railway Bills 'for the purpose of its undertaking.' This may lead to doubt as to the precise meaning of the phrase used here, and I would suggest that the Bill be allowed to stand for further consideration.

Mr. HARRIS. I understand that this Bill was referred to a special subcommittee and the amendments proposed were brought in by that committee. I believe the subcommittee considered that, with the amendments added, the section sufficiently limited the charter.

Mr. LENNOX. I do not see why we should use one phraseology as regards railway Bills and another phraseology as regards private Bills of this kind, and I would move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Progress reported.

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 139) respecting the Bay of Quinté Railway Company.—Mr. Talbot.

QUESTIONS.

LA REVUE HEBDOMADAIRE—WEEKLY REPORT.

M. G. BOYER asks: (Translation).

1. Is it a fact that the interesting weekly review called Weekly Report, is not published in both languages?
2. If so, will the Government have this remedied?

Sir W. LAURIER (Translation).

1. Yes.
2. Yes.

GRAIN SUPERVISION AT FORT WILLIAM AND PORT ARTHUR.

Mr. SCHAFFNER:

1. How many men are employed by the government as grain supervisors at Fort William and Port Arthur.
2. What is the total cost per annum of the supervision?
3. What are the names of the men employed, and the salary of each?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER:

1. 24 at present; but the number is always increased when navigation opens.
2. About \$18,000 per annum.
3. The list of names with salaries cannot be given, as changes are taking place more or less all the time. The men are paid \$60 a month when working.