

all doubts as to the power of the Government to act under a former statute regarding the Halifax extension.

TRANSLATION OF THE DEBATES.

Hon. Mr. BLANCHET—I ask for information concerning the translation of the debates. We have received only a small portion as yet in French, and I would like to know what progress is being made.

Mr. BOWELL—The Chairman is not here, and I am unable to give any information. The Committee has not been called together, and I have no knowledge whatever of what has been done. The whole matter is in the hands of the Chairman of the Committee, who has apparently assumed all responsibility.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS—HALIFAX STATION.

Mr. DOMVILLE—Was the iron station now at Halifax awaiting erection purchased privately or by public tender, and from whom?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I have already stated that the iron roof was not obtained by tender, but purchased from Clarke, Reeves & Co., of Philadelphia, at a cost of \$12,800.

THE DECK-LOADS' LAW.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—Whether any report has been made by the Port Warden of Quebec to the Collector of that Port, or to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, in relation to a violation during the season of 1875 of an Act intituled "An Act respecting Deck-Loads," 36 Victoria, Cap. 56 by the barque *N. Churchill*; or whether such violation of said law has been brought to the notice of said department in any other way; also whether such vessel before clearance by the Customs Department, had the certificates required by sections 5, 6 and 7 of said Act, and whether any prosecution has been taken against the master of said vessel for violations of the Provisions of said Act for the penalties provided under sections 8, 9 and 10 of said Act or the punishment of imprisonment to which the master of said vessel is liable?

Hon. Mr. SMITH—Some correspondence in this connection is now before the House, and I presume that my hon. friend has seen it. Steps have been instituted to prosecute, but the vessel in question has never returned.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—The captain and vessel have been in the country all winter. I am glad to learn that my hon. friend has taken steps in the matter, and this is quite satisfactory to me. My hon. friend has not, however, stated whether before clearance by the Customs Department, the vessels had the certificates required by sec. 5, 6, and 7.

Hon. Mr. SMITH—My hon. friend will see by the correspondence, that there has not been so great a violation of the law, as he anticipated the correspondence would show. The Government will prosecute if the law has been violated.

PORTAGE ISLAND.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—Whether the arrangements and negotiations carried on in 1872 and 1873, between the Canadian Government and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for the transfer of Portage Island in the Bay of Miramichi to the Canadian Government, have resulted in the title of such Island being vested in the Government of Canada?

Hon. Mr. SMITH—I believe that the title is not complete. I am not aware of the existence of any return in this regard.

JUDGE AT SOREL.

Mr. GILL—Is it the intention of the Government to take the necessary measures to have a resident Judge at Sorel during the leave of absence granted to the Honorable Mr. Justice Loranger?

Hon. Mr. BLAKE—The Government have taken steps to supply his place during his term of absence. Some correspondence which has passed on the subject is at the disposal of the House, if the hon. member will move for it.

CHENAL ECARTÉ.

Mr. STEPHENSON—Will any sum be put into the Supplementary Estimates, or be otherwise provided this