

Governments themselves to obtain the opinion of the highest tribunal in the land as to the validity of their own statutes. There seemed to be two ways in which this might be done. One would be to enable the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to refer the question directly to the Supreme Court; but as that court is under Dominion jurisdiction, that might be objectionable. Another way would be to enable the Lieutenant-Governors in Council to do so by the intervention of the Governor in Council, and that is the plan adopted in the short Bill which I have laid before the House.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

RATE OF INTEREST IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria, B.C.) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 22) respecting the rate of interest in British Columbia. He said: At present no rate of interest is specified by law in British Columbia as collectable on accounts recovered under judgments, and great trouble very frequently arises in arriving at the amount of interest which has been allowed with the principal which has been recovered. This Bill is simply to provide what shall be the legal rate of interest recoverable in British Columbia in that way, and also to specify the maximum rate which can be recovered, even where there is an expressed agreement.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

THE NORTH-WEST DISTURBANCE.

Mr. BLAKE asked, How many half-breeds were committed for trial in connection with the North-West rebellion; how many were tried; how many were convicted; how many Indians were committed for trial in the same connection; how many were tried; how many were convicted; how many whites were committed for trial in the same connection; how many were tried; how many were convicted; and what are their names?

Mr. THOMPSON (Antigonish). Most of the prisoners taken in connection with the rebellion were not regularly committed for trial, but were taken for overt acts of rebellion and held for trial or discharged. There were, in all, 46 half-breed prisoners, 81 Indians and 2 whites; 18 half-breeds were tried for treason-felony, one for high treason, and one for murder; 11 were discharged on their own recognisance of \$400 each, to appear and receive sentence when called upon; 8 were discharged upon their own recognisance, to appear and take their trial when called upon; one, Adolphe Nolin, charged with treason-felony, was discharged by order of General Middleton. Two others who were held for trial and would have been tried in the course of the present month, were discharged on the proceedings being discontinued by my own direction. The 4 others were discharged, one having been acquitted. Of the Indians 44 were convicted of various offences, nearly all treason-felony; 1, however, was for manslaughter, 2 for arson, 5 for horse stealing, 1 for cow stealing, 1 for breaking gaol, and the others were convicted of treason-felony; 10 were discharged on promising to come up for trial when required. In the case of one Indian charged with treason-felony, there was no evidence against him at the time of the trial, but he was detained at Regina for further enquiry by the Indian Department, and has since probably been discharged. Three were acquitted. The remainder of the Indians, charged with various offences, were discharged. The two charged with stealing appear to have been discharged, but I am not in a position to say by whose order or on whose authority. Of the whites two charged with treason-felony were held for trial. One of them, William H. Jackson, was acquitted on the ground of insanity; the other, Thomas Scott, was acquitted.

HON. SENATOR O'DONOHUE.

Mr. BLAKE asked, Was it arranged between Mr. O'Donohue and the First Minister or any member of the Government that the former should become a Privy Councillor or Cabinet Minister? If so, when? (2.) Was the office to be filled by Mr. O'Donohue agreed on? If so, what was the office? (3.) Was any communication addressed by the First Minister to any ecclesiastical dignitaries intimating Mr. O'Donohue's approaching accession to the Government? If so, when and to whom? (4.) Was any communication by His Excellency the then Governor General relating to Mr. O'Donohue's appointment conveyed to that gentleman; and if so, when? (5.) For how long a time did the understanding continue that Mr. O'Donohue should be a Privy Councillor and Minister, and when was it broken off?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will answer this question, in so far as I think the public interests are concerned. In 1882, negotiations were opened with Mr. O'Donohue with the view of his entering the Ministry, and the assent of the Governor General was obtained to his being asked to enter the Government. It was, however, found that Mr. O'Donohue could not, at that time, from various causes, bring the expected strength to the Administration, either generally or from his co-religionists; and, after consultation between Mr. O'Donohue and the Hon. Frank Smith, Senator, the former was appointed Senator, and Mr. Smith was appointed to the Privy Council, without, according to my recollection, any office being assigned to him.

IMMIGRANTS SETTLED IN CANADA.

Mr. MILLS asked, What is the total number of immigrants reported to have settled in Canada during the calendar year 1885?

Mr. CARLING. 79,169.

FRANCHISE BILL.

Mr. McMULLEN asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce any amendments to the Franchise Bill during the present Session?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is under consideration.

AMNESTY IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. BLAKE asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to advise an amnesty in favor of persons against whom the Government has not instituted proceedings in respect of acts committed in the late rebellion in the North-West?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is a matter of considerable delicacy, and is now under the consideration of the Government.

THE NORTH-WEST DISTURBANCE—TRANSPORT SERVICE, Etc.

Mr. CASEY asked, What are the total amounts paid to date, or now payable, on any claim recognised by the Government in connection with the suppression of the North-West rebellion, under the following heads, viz.:—Transport service; pay of officers and men; subsistence; equipment; arms and ammunition; medical and hospital supplies; horses; forage; commissions, if any, for payment of money or purchase of supplies; distinguishing payments made under any of these heads to the Canadian Pacific or Hudson's Bay Companies?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I must ask the hon. gentleman to move for the returns. It is quite impossible