

had availed himself of his services as Immigration Agent.

* * *

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

Mr. JONES (Leeds North and Grenville North): Before putting his motion would ask when the report of the Commissioners would be brought before the House. He had seen a report in the newspapers purporting to come from the Commissioners, but it did not contain the information he desired.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said that the report was laid on the table the other day, and he supposed it had gone to the Printing Committee. If on examination the hon. gentleman found it did not contain the particulars he required, he could then make his motion, or if he wished he could make it now.

Mr. JONES (Leeds North and Grenville North) thereupon moved for a statement of costs and charges connected with the survey and management of the Intercolonial Railway, and said that some members of the House had questioned him as to what he meant by the "Commissariat Department." He referred to the last report of the Commissioners which gave statement of salaries, &c, paid on account of Commissariat Service at Ottawa, and thought the Commissioners should explain.

Mr. WALSH explained that in the early progress of the work it had been necessary to provide provisions for the staff on the line, and the salary of the staff was fixed accordingly. Paymasters had been appointed who purchased the supplies and paid the salaries, but they were not stationed at Ottawa as the hon. gentleman supposed they were upon the work paying the men and purchasing the supplies since the beginning of last year; however that portion of the service had been discontinued. As the work had progressed the staff had been able to get provisions for themselves and their salaries had been rearranged. There was now no commissariat. He would take the opportunity of saying that the return about the Miramichi Bridge would, he thought, be ready to be brought down to-morrow.

Mr. ROSS (Wellington Centre) moved for a return of the number of ploughs entered at the Port of Guelph. He desired the information as he had been informed that some ploughs had been entered free of duty?

Hon. Mr. TILLEY said the information would be furnished.

* * *

SCHOOL LAW IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. RENAUD moved for correspondence, &c., relating to the School Act passed by the Legislature of New Brunswick. In supporting his motion, he complained of the action of the

Legislature of that Province in reference to the School law they had recently passed. He stated that this law was unfair in its operation, so far as concerned the interests of Roman Catholics, because it ignored their religious scruples, and also in its use of the French language. He argued that the law was unconstitutional, and that the Government had a right to interfere in the matter.

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN complained very strongly of the unjust working of the present law in New Brunswick as compared with the Act repealed. He said that when the Act now in operation was before the New Brunswick Assembly the Roman Catholics petitioned that it should at all events give them rights similar to those enjoyed by the Protestant minority in Quebec, but they petitioned in vain—and the only result was that the Act was made to press more heavily upon them than it was first intended to do. The Catholics there still believed that they had a remedy in applying to the Dominion Government. He believed that the present Act was unconstitutional, as it took away rights which were enjoyed by the Catholics under the previous School law, which had no provision that the schools should be non-sectarian, but on the contrary provided that the children should be taught the principles of Christianity, morality, and justice.

He then entered into an explanation of the old Act under which Counties were divided into parishes which elected three Trustees who, under the Education Board, appointed Teachers, who were paid by the Province—so that in Catholic Districts Catholic teachers were always appointed, and the children taught the Catholic religion, not only orally, but by Catholic text books and maintained that under the present system all this was possible. He said that the old law not being applicable to all towns special grants had hitherto been made for education in the towns, which were renewed every year though the Legislature had power to suspend them.

He maintained that under Confederation which professed to protect the rights of all classes, the present law ought not to be allowed to remain in force. He maintained that the law when referred to the Dominion Government ought not to have been treated as a legal question only, but as one of policy and justice. He complained that the Catholics had petitioned the Dominion Government most respectfully, feeling deeply the wrong they had sustained, and it was not for months that they received any answer, when they were informed that the law was to go into force. He said that the local governments were quite competent to decide as to whether their Legislation was constitutional, and it would be useless to submit that question alone to the Dominion Government. When it became known that the Act would not be disallowed the Local Legislature had made it still more intolerable and hateful to the Catholics by the regulations they framed under it. There could be no doubt of the soundness of the policy of not interfering with the Local Legislature where it could be avoided, but this was a case in which the greatest excitement and dissatisfaction had been occasioned throughout the whole Province, and he could imagine no good or sound reason why the Act was not declared void.