

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST J. MCGOVERN.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY inquired :

1. Is it true that the government has ordered an inquiry into the conduct of Mr. J. McGovern, foreman of the Intercolonial Railway between Lévis and Rivière du Loup ?

2. Has this inquiry been ordered as the result of grave accusations of peculation brought against this employee ?

3. What is the precise nature of the accusations the truth of which the commissioner holding the inquiry has been ordered to find out ?

4. Who has been appointed commissioner to hold the inquiry ? Is it Mr. T. C. Burpee, of Moncton ? If not, who ?

5. When was the appointment made, and when is the inquiry to commence ?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I have an answer, not as to the question as put now, but as it was put a day or two ago.

The information asked for in these questions may be embodied in one reply : Mr. Burpee, engineer of maintenance and ways of the Intercolonial Railway, investigated certain complaints made concerning Mr. McGovern some time ago, and as a result of his report the management of the road have been asked to make certain changes in the staff.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I suppose we have only a deduction to make from that answer. Has this inquiry been ordered as the result of grave accusations of peculation ? Is it out of order to ask that question ?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not think it is. I do not know any reason why it should be out of order.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—The hon. gentleman means that it is in order ?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is my off-hand opinion. I have not had much time to form an opinion.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—And when we agree that that question is in order, could we not agree that it is convenient that an answer should be given to that very orderly question.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There are no more than twenty-four hours of my life each day,

and the larger portion, leaving very little, is given to the public business, and I cannot possibly be expected to do everything. It was after 12 when I went to bed last night, and between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning when I awakened.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I was not under a wrong impression when I thought it was a public matter. It is not a private matter. It is not for myself I want it.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—Stands until next session.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—No, we shall not prorogue before I get an answer to that question.

The SPEAKER—The question has been partially answered. The hon. gentleman could put another question.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I think I will take out of this question all that has been answered, so that it shall not appear so formidable when it comes back, and, with the good will of the minister I may obtain an answer. The minister is doing all he can to get those answers, but I think there is a man in the department, who, under the false pretense of playing me a trick, is doing an injury to the minister. He stands against the minister's will, because I know that the hon. gentleman would do all he possibly could to give me proper answers, but that man does not answer. I will put my question in a milder form and will try to get round the difficulty. If we cannot get it the front way, we shall have to make a flank movement.

DELAYED RETURNS.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY rose to inquire when does the government think it will be able to lay on the Table of this House the following documents, the production of which was ordered during the present session, at the dates mentioned :

(a) The statement indicating the amounts spent on the Deschambault wharf—4th February ?

(b) The correspondence exchanged between the Department of Militia and Lt.-Col. Davidson re the later's dismissal and the promotion of Sir Henry Pellatt to the rank of colonel—14th February ?