

## INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. CHOQUETTE asked, Has the Government, directly or indirectly, received from any person or company, an invitation to be presented to this House, to visit the principal cities of the United States? If such invitation has been received,—when and from what person or company? And what has been the answer of the Government?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Government has not, directly or indirectly, received from any person or company an invitation to be presented to this House to visit the principal cities of the United States. I may say that I got a private note from an American gentleman saying that it would be a very good thing if this arrangement could be made.

## PACIFIC MAIL SUBSIDY.

Mr. PRIOR asked, Whether, in the event of the Government granting a subsidy, in conjunction with the Imperial Government, to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, or any other company, for carrying the mails between Vancouver, British Columbia, and China and Japan, they will insist upon the vessels carrying said mails calling on both the inward and outward trips at Victoria, British Columbia, the capital of British Columbia?

Mr. FOSTER. The arrangements for mail service between British Columbia and China and Japan have not yet been concluded with the Imperial Post Office authorities, and will depend to a great extent upon the conditions which may be imposed by Her Majesty's Government.

## ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE—HOUSE FOR COMMANDANT.

Mr. PLATT asked, Have the Government agreed to purchase a house in the city of Kingston for the use of the commandant of the Royal Military College? If so, what amount do they propose to pay for said house, and at what distance, or about what distance, is said house from the Royal Military College?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The Government have agreed to purchase a house in the city of Kingston for the use of the commandant of the Royal Military College, for which they propose to pay \$12,500. The house is about 2,000 yards from the college.

## PUBLIC WORKS IN YARMOUTH COUNTY, N.S.

Mr. LOVITT asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to provide a sum in the Estimates for repairing and rebuilding the abutments washed out of Port Maitland breakwater, county of Yarmouth; also a sum for removing the gravel from the inside of Cranberry Head breakwater, in the said county?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am sorry I cannot answer that just now. The hon. gentleman will have to wait, I think, until the Supplementary Estimates come down.

## RATES OF POSTAGE.

Mr. THÉRIEN asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to reduce the rate of postage on letters in the Dominion of Canada to two cents?

Mr. HAGGART. It is not at present the intention of the Government to reduce the rate.

## DOMINION LANDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. DAVIN asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill, this Session, amending the Dominion Lands Act?

Mr. BOWELL.

Mr. DEWDNEY. That matter is under the consideration of the Government.

## RIVER ST. LOUIS IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. BERGERON asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to continue, this year, the works commenced at River St. Louis?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes.

## BEAUHARNOIS CANAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. BERGERON asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to commence this year the deepening and widening of the Beauharnois Canal?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That matter is under consideration.

## ISLANDS IN THE ST. LAWRENCE.

Mr. TAYLOR asked, Whether any petitions have been presented by the township councils of the front of Leeds and Lansdowne, front of Escott and the front of Young, praying that the islands in the River St. Lawrence, opposite these townships in the county of Leeds, Ontario, be sold? If so, what action the Government have decided on with reference to the same?

Mr. DEWDNEY. Some representations have been made in the direction stated in the hon. gentleman's question. The Government have taken no action. I propose myself next spring visiting the islands, after which I shall be in a better position to make representations to the Government.

## DUNDAS AND WATERLOO ROADS.

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth) moved for:

Return of copies of all correspondence, reports, petitions or other papers respecting the sale, ownership or condition of the Dundas and Waterloo macadamised road, since the return brought down under an Order of the House dated 17th February, 1885.

He said: I should apologise to the House, perhaps, for speaking for a few moments on a question of this kind. It is a matter of purely local interest to my own county; but I may say that it has always puzzled me to understand in what respect the road in question could be called a work for the general advantage of the Dominion of Canada, and thus constituted a Dominion public work. It is a local highway, built away back, in the early days before the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada were united, as a Local Government work, and is confined to the county of Wentworth and one adjoining county. It happens to be one of the two main outlets for the travel of that and the adjoining counties to the two main markets of the locality, the town of Dundas and the city of Hamilton. The larger proportion of the travel in this county is forced, whether or not from local circumstances, to go over one or the other of these two means of access to the city of Hamilton; because those who know the locality, know that Burlington Bay and the canal together give access to vessels going up the valley, past the city of Hamilton, to the town of Dundas, and crossed only at one point on Burlington Heights by a bridge. A few years ago—the Desjardins Canal Co. being involved in financial troubles—we found ourselves suddenly face to face with a difficulty that threatened to be most serious to those who travelled over the only other source of access to the city of Hamilton. Those who know the influences which a large city having two representatives in this House, and which a corporation such as the Great Western Railway and which the Desjardins Canal could wield, know they were much greater than any one representative in this House could hope to control. And these gentlemen, either tacitly or actively, made the endeavor