

question of privilege. There appears in the correspondence from Ottawa of the Montreal "Gazette" of to-day a heading in which I remark the following words: "An Important Question regarding the Préfontaine Clause." As I am not responsible for the preferential clause, which is the one evidently referred to, and do not understand how the typesetter on the "Gazette" happened to have my name on his brain, I wish to have my responsibility perfectly disengaged from the authorship of this clause.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY—EXTENSION TO MONTREAL.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the following announcement made in the Speech of His Excellency at the opening of this session:

I have much satisfaction in informing you that arrangements have been concluded which, if you approve, will enable the Intercolonial Railway system to reach Montreal, and thus share in the large traffic centering in that city.

That speech was delivered to us on the 25th day of March, and I wish to ask the hon. Minister if he is prepared yet to take the House into his confidence and lay before us these arrangements which were declared to be concluded on the opening day of the session.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). I think I will be prepared, at the first opportunity which will be convenient for the purpose, to make a complete statement of the proposed arrangement. I do not know just in what form the hon. member would desire that it should be presented.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What I propose is that the promise made by the Governor General should be fulfilled and that this arrangement should be laid before this House for its approval.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS.** There is no question but that will be done in the ordinary course. I thought that the hon. gentleman desired to have some explanation prior to the submission of the resolution and the Bill, so that the House might be informed as to the details. I shall take occasion, if it will answer the convenience or suit the purpose of the hon. gentleman, when the Estimates are on having reference to the Railway Department, to make a full statement with regard to these details. I have no wish to conceal anything from the House, and only desire to take a convenient opportunity of putting the matter in the form in which it would be properly presented.

PRINCE ALBERT BRANCH, C. P. R.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to

draw the attention of the Government to the following article from the Prince Albert "Advocate":—

The management of the Prince Albert Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway seem to conduct their business on the penny wise and pound foolish plan. While they charge us the highest rates charged on any road in Canada, they give us the worst possible service. During the last two or three years they have done away with section men on this road, and, as a result, the train is delayed by the excessive growth of weeds on the roadbed in the summer time and by the drifting snow in the winter. This winter the snow-fall has been heavier than usual, and the train has been making about as good time as the ox teams of the freighters. Passengers have been kept four or five days on the trip from Prince Albert to Regina, which should not take more than ten hours, though the schedule time is fourteen hours, and have been subjected to great hardships through cold and the want of proper food. It is disgraceful that such a state of things exist on a railroad which is receiving a subsidy of \$80,000 a year from the Government, especially when at a very small expenditure a few fences could be erected along the road in the open prairie, where the wind fills the cuttings with snow, and by the employment of the usual section men, who could easily keep the remainder of the track clear. The attention of the Minister of Railways should be brought to this matter at once, to see if he cannot force the company to keep up to their contract by giving us at least two trains each week; and if he cannot afford us the relief we need, our member, Mr. Davis, should bring the matter to the attention of the Government, who would, no doubt, find a remedy for this grievance.

I might say that this state of things has been going on for the last two or three years, and it is a very serious matter indeed with us, because the rural districts are served with their mails from the town of Prince Albert. If the mail does not get in in time, say at nine or ten o'clock in the evening, the postmaster is unable to get it assorted in time for the mails that leave for the rural districts about ten o'clock the following morning, and as the result of this the people throughout the district of Saskatchewan have to wait a whole week for their mails. This country is paying \$80,000 a year as a subsidy to this company, and they should be compelled to fulfil their contract with proper expedition. This matter has not been brought to the attention of the Government before, and I press it upon their attention now at the request of the citizens of Saskatchewan, and I would urge on the hon. Minister of Railways to take such action as will compel this company to fulfil its contract.

Mr. DAVIN. I would like to know whether the committee in Prince Albert has approved of the hon. gentleman bringing this matter before the House.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY—QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.