

in bond that can be sprung upon the country or held back, I do not see why the question should not be answered.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The attention of the government has been directed to the memorial of the Board of Trade, but the question of duty must, of course, stand till after the budget speech has been delivered.

EMPLOYMENT OF WM. HENRY SOWDEN.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER rose to

Inquire of the Government whether William Henry Sowden of Souris, Manitoba, has been employed by any department of the present government, either as immigration agent or in any other capacity, and, if so, at what remuneration, what was the nature of the employment, how long it lasted, what was the sphere of his operations, and what were the results thereof?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—William Henry Sowden was employed in the Immigration Service for two months ending in March, 1897, in the Midland counties of Ontario. He was paid \$75 a month and his expenses. His special duty was to work among the people in those counties who were reported as likely to move to the United States, and to turn their attention to the North-west. The result was that a considerable number of persons who, it was believed, would otherwise have gone to the United States, went to the Canadian North-west.

DISMISSAL OF ALFRED E. LENOIR.

INQUIRY.

The Order of the Day being called :

At whose instance, or on whose report or authority did the Commissioner of Fisheries recommend to the government the dismissal for incompetency of Alfred E. Lenoir, of Richmond county, in the province of Nova Scotia?

Hon. Mr. MILLER said : A few days ago I addressed a note to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, asking for the information which my question requires, and not receiving a reply, I put it on the paper. I have just received his answer and I shall drop my question. I may, however, put a motion on the paper asking for the correspondence to be brought down in connection with the subject.

The motion was dropped.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR WALSH.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL inquired :

Whether any instructions were given to Major Walsh when sent to the Yukon district, and, if so, of what character, whether oral or in writing, and if in writing, whether such instructions will be laid before the Senate?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—There were no written instructions given to Major Walsh other than those found in the commission and Order Council, and as to oral instructions, of course if there was any conversation, it is impossible to bring it down because it does not exist.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—You did not put them on record?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—No! The Order in Council I have just laid on the table.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I did not ask the hon. gentleman to bring down the oral instructions.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—The motion asks for it.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I take the opportunity to ask if Major Walsh is returning to Ottawa. I see by the paper he is coming back.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—We have no information on that subject.

RAILWAY RATES ON PURE BRED STOCK.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Before the Orders of the Day are called I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether he is prepared to give the information that I asked for on Wednesday last. The hon. gentlemen will remember that I then asked whether the government railways had agreed to give the concessions which the railway companies had given to the owners of pure bred stock when carried on the railways of Canada, whether that same reduction has been given, of one-half rate, by the railway companies is also given by the government railways.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I sent a note over to the Minister of Railways and have not heard from him. I suppose I will hear to-morrow.