

park is now receiving the consideration of the Government.

INDIAN AGENT WM. BATEMAN.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Has Mr. Wm. Bateman, of Port Perry, Ont., been removed from the position of Indian agent to the Indians on Scugog Island ?

2. Was there an official inquiry into Mr. Bateman's conduct before he was dismissed from the position of Indian agent ?

3. Who recommended the dismissal of Mr. Bateman, late Indian agent to the Scugog Island Indians ?

4. What were the charges preferred against Mr. Bateman, late Indian agent for the Scugog Island Indians ?

5. Who is Mr. Bateman's successor as agent to the Scugog Island Indians ? Can Mr. Bateman's successor (whose name, I believe, is Williams) write or read ?

6. Was Mr. Williams, in his recent visit to pay the Scugog Island Indians, accompanied by his brother who sells liquor in Port Perry ?

7. Did Hon. John Dryden communicate with the Government, or any member thereof regarding the dismissal of Mr. Bateman or the appointment of Mr. Williams as agent to the Scugog Indians ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier).

1. Mr. William Bateman has been removed from the position of Indian agent to the Indians of Scugog Island. 2. There was an inquiry, a departmental inquiry, not by commission. 3. As to who recommended the dismissal of Mr. Bateman, this is a question as to which the Government does not feel bound to answer. 4. The charge preferred against Mr. Bateman was offensive partisanship. 5. Mr. Albert Williams is the successor of Mr. Bateman. The department has no reason to doubt that Mr. Williams will discharge the duties of his office efficiently. 6. The department has not yet received any report of the visit referred to, and has no knowledge of any one accompanying Mr. Williams on that occasion. 7. The department has no knowledge of any such communication having been made.

FISHERY GUARDIANS, NORTH VICTORIA.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Who are the fishery guardians under direction of the Federal Government in the waters of North Victoria, Ontario ?

2. Why were the services of those fishery guardians formerly in the service of the Government in North Victoria, dispensed with ?

3. On whose report were the former fishery guardians in North Victoria, i.e., those in service last year, retired ?

4. Was there an investigation into the conduct of the fishery guardians in North Victoria ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). 1. The overseer

in the district referred to is Archibald Bradshaw. 2. The services of the officers referred to were not dispensed with. This answers also questions 3 and 4.

Mr. HUGHES. All wrong.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Perhaps the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hughes) had better take charge of the department.

DISMISSAL OF EUGENE BLANCHET.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Is Eugene Blanchet, of Fraserville, P.Q., employed on the Intercolonial Railway ? 2. If so, in what capacity and since what date ? 3. Was the same Eugene Blanchet dismissed from the service of the Intercolonial Railway after an investigation about the year 1879 ? 4. If so, what was the cause of his dismissal ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The man named Blanchet is not in the employ of the Intercolonial Railway, but was dismissed, I believe, in 1879. The offence of which he was found guilty was the sending of time-sheets which were irregular.

OPENING OF THE CANALS.

Mr. PENNY. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would ask the privilege of putting to the Minister of Railways a question which is of vital importance to the city of Montreal, and that is, when may we expect the canals along the St. Lawrence to be opened ? Ships have already started from the other side, and the merchants of Montreal would like to know when they may expect the canals to be opened in order that they may be able to load these ships.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I may say to my hon. friend that the department is fully sensible of the importance of having this work completed, and the repairs which are now proceeding finished at the earliest possible date. Instructions have been given to those who are in charge of the work to prosecute it vigorously, both day and night. I think I may assure the hon. gentleman that an hour will not be lost in bringing these works to completion. It would be quite impossible for me to give him any positive assurance as to the date upon which the work will be completed ; but I am given to understand that it will be quite impossible to have the canal ready before the end of the present month. That, I think, is the best information that I can safely give the hon. gentleman upon this subject.