

REPRESENTATION OF THE YUKON DISTRICT.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Is it the intention of the government this session to ask parliament to provide for the representation of the Yukon district in the House of Commons ?

2. If not, why not ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is no intention on the part of the government this session to ask parliament to provide for the representation of the Yukon district in the House of Commons. The government deem it advisable to wait until the next census, when the exact condition of the population and the condition of the country will be better known.

COMPENSATION TO ROBERT DEWAR.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

What sum has been paid to Robert Dewar or other party in compensation for loss of mill property at Barney's River, Pictou, Nova Scotia, by the Railway Department ?

To whom was the payment made ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The sum of \$1,500 was paid to Robert Dewar in settlement of a claim for damages for loss of mill property at Barney's River, N.S. The payment was made to Dewar and to Laura McGregor, who, I understand, has some interest in the property.

YUKON—J. E. WHITESIDE, CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. What position, if any, had J. E. Whiteside, in 1898, in the Customs Department at Bennett and at Summit ?

2. What were his duties ?

3. Did he so report to the collector of customs at Victoria, B. C. ?

4. If he did report, will the hon. the Minister of Customs cause his reports to be laid on the Table of the House at an early day ?

5. Did Mr. Whiteside report to Major Walsh, or any other officer, on customs work in detail ; and if so, did this report reach the Customs Department at Ottawa ?

6. If the report last mentioned reached Ottawa, will the hon. the Minister of Customs cause the same to be laid on the Table of the House at an early date ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). 1 and 2. Mr. John E. Whiteside was sent by Collector Milne of Victoria, to Skagway on the 24th February, 1898, and subsequently he was transferred for service at White Pass. On the 27th May, 1898, which was shortly after he had been transferred to White Pass, he resigned his position and his resignation was ac-

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

cepted. 3. Mr. Whiteside may have reported to the collector of customs at Victoria, but no reports from him to such collector are on file in the Customs Department. 4. The answer to No. 3 answers this question. 5. No report to Major Walsh from Mr. Whiteside, when he was a customs officer, appears to have reached the Customs Department. On the 28th June, 1898, however, Mr. Whiteside wrote a letter to Major Walsh, with reference to his actions as a customs officer ; such letter is now on file in the Customs Department.

Mr. PRIOR. Would the hon. gentleman apply to the customs at Victoria and see if there was such a report sent by Mr. Whiteside to him, and if he can get it, will the hon. gentleman lay it on the Table ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I will see when I get it.

EXAMINATIONS FOR RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS.

Mr. MONTAGUE asked :

When were the last examinations held for the railway mail clerks of the Ottawa division ?

What percentage did each clerk obtain ?

Is it the intention of the minister to make promotions on the result of those examinations as the increase of the estimates of 1900 and 1901 calls for ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). In reply to the first question, I have to say that the examinations were held in Ottawa for the Ottawa district in the months of September and October, 1899. In reply to the second question, perhaps the hon. gentleman will be satisfied if I give him the information personally rather than publicly, as it is perhaps of a semi-confidential character. I have no other reason for not placing it upon the Table. To the third question, it is the intention of the minister to live up to the law and the amendments to the Post Office Act, and to have promotions made upon the merits.

MAIL SERVICE, INVERNESS, N.S.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness) asked :

1. What was the total cost to the government of Canada of carrying Her Majesty's mails in the county of Inverness, N.S., during the financial years ended 30th of June, 1896, and the 30th June, 1899, respectively ?

2. What was the total cost to the government of Canada of the maintenance of the post offices, including the salaries of postmasters in the county of Inverness, during the financial years ended 30th of June, 1896, and the 30th of June, 1899, respectively ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Cost of mail service in Inverness County on 30th of June, 1896, was \$14,922.31 ; on the 30th of June, 1899, the cost of this service was \$9,850.93.