

Yes, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in 1879, reported that Commander Lavoie being vested at the time with supreme control of the ship "Lady Head" and directly responsible to the Government for the efficiency of the service it was his duty to secure qualified assistants, as his discretion in the choice of officers was unlimited and that he had selected and retained officers shown to be incompetent and inefficient, and failed to report their inefficiency, and that while the Minister recognized that Commander Lavoie, for many years had satisfactorily fulfilled important duties, it was deemed necessary in the public interest to visit his neglect of duty in not reporting the inefficiency of his subordinates with exemplary severity.

IMPORTS OF VENEERS.

Mr. WILSON (for Mr. Hughes) asked :

1. Have "veneers made from woods native to Canada" been entered at Bowmanville, Ont., during recent months by the Dominion Organ and Piano Company at less than the regular rate of duty?
2. What was the rate of duty previous to April 23rd on such articles?
3. What is it now?

The CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). 1. It has not been brought to the attention of the Department of Customs that the Dominion Organ and Piano Company have entered veneers made from woods native to Canada at Bowmanville, at less than the regular rate of duty within recent months. 2. The rate of duty previous to 23rd April, 1897, on veneers of wood not over one-sixteenth of an inch thick, made from woods native to Canada, was 10 per cent ad valorem—vide Item 368. 3. In the new tariff the classification of veneers is changed. Item 367 of the old tariff read as follows :—

Veneers of wood, n.e.s., not over one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, 5 per cent ad valorem.

Item 368 of the old tariff read as follows :—

Veneers of wood, not over one-sixteenth of an inch thick, made from woods native to Canada, 10 per cent ad valorem.

Item 321 of the new tariff is the only item referring to veneers of wood, and it reads as follows :—

Veneers of wood, not over three-thirty-seconds of an inch in thickness, 10 per cent ad valorem.

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 Government to the following statement contained in the Speech from the Throne :—

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.

I would like to ask the hon. leader of the Government, a long time having elapsed since we had this positive declaration from the Throne that these arrangements had been concluded, if he would be good enough to lay on the Table of the House the papers in relation to the matter.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). As my hon. friend is aware, the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has been laid up for some time, and is not perhaps able to give an answer now. I shall be able at the next sitting of the House to say whether or not the papers will be brought down.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I think I may say to the hon. gentleman that the documents, which are in course of preparation, and which will have to be submitted, as between the two contracting parties, are not yet quite completed. Some of the important details of the negotiations are not finally agreed upon. We are making all possible speed in bringing matters to a head, and I can assure the hon. gentleman that there will be no unnecessary delay in presenting the whole matter to Parliament. At the earliest possible moment the papers will be laid on the Table. They have been somewhat delayed by my indisposition of the last three or four days, but I think perhaps towards the latter end of next week I may be able to furnish the House with the desired information.

"OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS."

Mr. DAVIN. A number of Canadians have requested me to bring before the House a protest on their part against a description of Canada that has now acquired world-wide fame; and if it be necessary, I shall put myself in order by making a motion. It is now of record in "Hansard" that a great poet, one with the finest ear for English music of any poet of the century, has designated this great Canada of ours, so varied in her resources and so manifold in her gifts, as "Our Lady of the Snows." A protest has appeared against that, written by a young Canadian poet in the "Star," and I have been asked to place it in "Hansard" as an antidote to what some, perhaps oversensitive among our people, consider the unjust, though well meant, description which has emanated from the great English poet :

"OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS."

A poet sung of a nation
In words that were kindly meant,
And his song on ethereal pulses
Throughout the Empire went.
It breathed the Imperial spirit
At which the bosom glows,
But he slurred the land that he fain had praised
As "Our Lady of the Snows."