

4. What was the amount of his tender ?
5. Did he comply with the terms of the office ?
6. If not, in what respect, if any, were the specifications not complied with ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. N. Robertson was relieved of his duties as superintendent of the Parliament grounds in August, 1889, when it was decided by the then Minister of Public Works, under the authority of Council, to execute by contract the work of taking care of the grounds, which had hitherto been performed by day labour under the superintendence of Mr. Robertson. 2. 3 and 4. No tenders were asked when the contract was first made in 1889, Mr. Robertson being given the work for one year at \$6,000, but in June, 1890, public tenders were asked, and Mr. Robertson, being the only tenderer, was awarded the contract for three years at the price of \$5,600 per year. This contract was extended for three years without tender up to the 1st July, 1896. In December, 1896, public tenders were called for, the lowest being that of J. N. Grieves, and that tender was accepted. 5 and 6. He carried out the contract and the extensions thereof in accordance with the specification.

GATES ON THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

•Mr. DECHENE asked,

Whether tenders were called for, for the construction of gates on the Intercolonial Railway in 1897 ? If so, who made the lowest tender, and what was the price paid per gate ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). Yes, tenders were called for the construction of gates on the Intercolonial Railway for the year 1897. Charles McNeil's, of New Glasgow, N.S., tender was the lowest. The price paid per gate was about \$1.89.

POSTMASTER AT PICTOU, N.S.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** asked,

1. Did the hon. the Postmaster General or the hon. the Minister of Public Works make or cause to be made a proposal or intimation that the postmaster at Pictou, N.S., should be janitor as well, and live in the post office building, accepting rent, fuel, &c., in lieu of janitor's salary ?

2. Did the hon. the Postmaster General or the hon. the Minister of Public Works, on or about October, 1896, propose this or any arrangement of this character ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Yes. 2. Yes.

HARBOUR OF REFUGE, ASPY BAY, N.S.

Mr. BETHUNE asked,

1. Has the Government come to any decision as to the making of a harbour of refuge at Mr. TAYLOR.

Aspy Bay, Victoria county, N.S. ? If so, what is it ? Will the report of the engineer on this proposed work be soon laid on the Table of the House ?

2. When will a wharf be built at Seymour Point, Victoria county, N.S., for which a sum of money was voted last session ?

3. Will a wharf be built at Iona, Victoria county, N.S., this year, and at what estimated cost ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. No, not yet. 2. Plan and specification in course of preparation. 3. Until the Supplementary Estimates are brought down, I am not in a position to answer.

ROADMASTER AT RIVER DU LOUP—PATRICK LAVRY.

Mr. DECHENE asked,

Whether the Government paid the costs of the inquiry instituted in the case of Patrick Lavry, foreman at St. Louise Station, then roadmaster at River du Loup, and if so, to whom ; was Lavry's lawyer also paid, and if so, how much ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The Intercolonial Railway paid Mr. J. E. Bedard for services and expenses in the case of Patrick Lavry. Lavry's lawyer has not been paid by the railway.

PACIFIC CABLE FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA TO AUSTRALIA.

Mr. BEATTIE asked,

Is it the intention of the Government to take any action towards securing the laying of a cable from British Columbia to Australia, thereby completing the Imperial circle of telegraphic communication ?

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright). That matter is now under the consideration of the Government.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. Before the notices of motion are called, I would suggest that in order to save time, we should go through the list and take the unopposed motions. I would ask the Government not to order motions to stand where there is no disposition to discuss them, but simply to have the papers brought down. A number of motions have been requested by the Government to stand in cases which it is considered important that we should have the information at once.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I do not think the last time this course was adopted the Government asked any undiscussed motions to stand.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I think it was done because the Minister