

ing on every sea. The hon. gentleman concluded by apologizing for detaining the House so long, and resumed his seat after speaking for two hours.

Friday, February 23, 1875.

SYDNEY MARINE HOSPITAL.

After routine, The HON. MR. BOURINOT moved for all plans, correspondence, documents and tenders in possession of the Government, relative to the proposed erection of a Marine Hospital at Sydney, C. B., specifying the respective amounts of such tenders. The hon. gentleman explained that many tenders had been offered, and in the interest of the future hospital he was anxious to learn their respective amounts, and any other information which could be obtained.

HON. MR. LETELLIER said that there was no objection on the part of the Government to give the particulars desired, and they would accordingly be ready as soon as possible.

THE ICE-BRIDGE AT QUEBEC.

HON. MR. RYAN rose to propose a question with reference to the formation of the ice-bridge within the limits of the harbour of Quebec. He had brought forward a measure and asked some questions on the same subject last session. On that occasion his hon. friend, the Minister of Agriculture, had informed him that he would take the subject into consideration in the interval between that session and the present. He would ask, therefore, whether any measure had been prepared, or whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce any measure on the subject. He might mention that his attention had been specially directed to the question on the present occasion by a correspondence in the papers at Quebec between the municipal authorities. It had been urged by some that the municipality had no right to stop the steamers, their contract being to leave every day during the year. He need not remind the House of the great disaster that attended the shipping last year in consequence of the bridge of ice. The emigrants were detained on board their

ships for nearly ten days and suffered great privation and hardship. The Minister of Agriculture, in whose Department the case of emigrants was, (so pressing was the necessity) went to Quebec to ameliorate the condition of the emigrants. He did not pretend to say that there were not two opinions on this subject; he believed there were, and that many of the inhabitants found the ice a convenience, but the loss had been so great last year that its recurrence again might injure our prospects, the character of the river and the navigation very seriously, and also injure the prospect of emigrants coming by that route to some extent. It was on the assurance of the Minister of Marine that some means would be taken to prevent such a thing occurring again, that he (Hon. Mr. Ryan) withdrew his measure on 21st May last. He would therefore inquire whether the Government intended to introduce any measure, during the present session of Parliament, with a view to prevent, as far as practicable, the recurrence of the loss and delay to ships and immigration, and of the serious injury to the trade and commerce of the River St. Lawrence which occurred in the spring of 1874, in consequence of the stoppage of ice and the formation of an ice bridge within the limits of the harbour of Quebec.

HON. MR. LETELLIER replied, that it was not the intention of the Government to introduce such a measure this session. During this winter they had been informed that the St. Lawrence Steamship Company was trying to prevent the formation of the ice bridge, and that this company was in a situation to carry out the views his hon. friend had expressed, when he brought the matter before the House last session. There had been, he believed, a quarrel between the company and the Corporation of Quebec; but he understood and he believed that up to this time the company had been able to prevent the formation of the ice bridge in question.

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HON. MR. RYAN then moved for copies of all despatches and other communications which had passed between the Government and its agents and