

met with in treating this important matter. In fact, in their tests the inspectors could never obtain any certainty or exactness as to results, and it has been conclusively proven, as the consequence of numerous experiments with the same oil made in Ottawa and in Toronto, the difference in results varied from five to twenty, or fifteen degrees. It is impossible such a state of things can be allowed to continue, and to remedy the evil the Government have ordered a number of Dr. Edwards' improved instruments, which are fully described on page six of Brunel's report of last year, and their superiority made manifest. It will be very difficult to decide on any change in policy until, at all events, decisive tests have been made with the improved means at the disposal of the Government. The Government will introduce a measure this Session to authorize the use of these instruments. A law must be enacted in this regard as has been done in England, authorizing the use of Taglioni's pyrometer, and which describes the instrument and various modes of using it. A similar enactment must be provided in this instance. Tests have been made with Edwards' instrument, of both Canadian and American oil, and if results prove accurate, the Government will be very happy to put both oils on the same footing with regard to flash test, though this will not probably be done until next Session. For these reasons I would ask my hon. friend to have the kindness to withdraw this motion.

Motion withdrawn.

NOVA SCOTIA RAILWAYS.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Shelburne), in moving for copies of all papers and correspondence between the Local Government of Nova Scotia and the Department of Railways in reference to the proposed future management of the lines of railway now controlled by the Western Counties, Windsor and Annapolis and Eastern Extension Railway Companies, together with copies of all proposals recently submitted to the Dominion Government by Messrs. Holmes, White and Troop, members of the Nova Scotian Government, said it was rumored the Government of Nova Scotia intended taking possession of these lines, and that they had asked, during the past month, very important exceptions in the way of running powers over the Intercolonial. It was also rumored a minor Syndicate had been formed to take charge of these roads and run them in the future. He had no positive information on the subject, and made this motion to ascertain all information that could be obtained. Heretofore the Treasury of Nova Scotia was supposed to be in a very poor state, yet this Session no less than two important delegations from that Government had come here, the first of which partook more of the nature of a pleasure than a business trip.

Motion agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL ASSIGNEES.

Mr. VANASSE moved for a statement shewing:

1. The number of official assignees, appointed under the Insolvent Act of 1875, and the Acts amending it, from the 1st June, 1875, to the 17th September, 1878.
2. The number of cases of insolvency in the Districts of Richelieu and of Montreal, during the same period.
3. To what insolvent cases these official assignees were appointed.
4. The number of cases of insolvency discharged by those two districts.
5. The names of the official assignees who have obtained their discharge, in conformity with the provisions of the Insolvent Act of 1875, and the Acts amending the same.
6. The names of the official assignees who have paid over to the Government of Canada the dividends remaining unclaimed in the said cases of insolvency, and the amount of each dividend thus paid over to the Government.

Mr. BLAKE. The motion of the hon. gentleman is in part directed to particular districts, but in part is general in form. The first statement asked for, namely, the appoint-

ment under the Act of 1875, and the Acts amending it, from the 1st June, 1875, until September, 1878, till the repeal of the Insolvent Act, might be useful. The second, third and fourth statements are special, and I do not interfere with them. But the fifth ought to apply as well to the assignees appointed since as before the date mentioned, namely, those who obtained their discharge since 1878, as well as before that year; and the motion might be amended as regards the sixth statement, in a similar sense, to cover the period from the 17th September, 1878, up to the repeal of the Insolvent Act.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I have no objection to amend the motion in the way suggested.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

DOMINION PURCHASE OF THE Q. M. O. & O. RAILWAY.

Mr. BÉCHARD, in the absence of Mr. LAURIER, moved for copy of all correspondence between the Government and the Provincial Government of Quebec, concerning the purchase, by the Dominion of Canada, of the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway, or the subsidizing of the same. He said: During the course of last Session, the hon. member for Quebec East proposed the same motion, when the answer given was that such a correspondence did not then exist. I do not dispute the accuracy of that answer; but I have reason to believe that, since last Session, such a correspondence has taken place between the Dominion and Quebec Governments. For, in the Budget Speech of the Provincial Treasurer of Quebec, made during the last Session of the Quebec Legislature in June, occurs the following passage:—

"We, therefore, laid our views before the Dominion Cabinet for consideration. I contend that we are as much entitled to aid towards the cost of the Government railway from Quebec to Ottawa as the Canada Central to the Dominion subsidy paid that road. While the building of that road may, and doubtless will, benefit the North Shore Railway, this latter road is equally necessary, as affording the shortest and most direct route to the ports of St. John and Halifax from the West, and is equally entitled to help from the Dominion Treasury. We, therefore, ask either that the Dominion assume the Q. M. O. and O. Railway as part of the Canada Pacific Railway, or that we be paid a subsidy equal to that paid per mile to the Canada Central. These questions are under consideration at Ottawa, and we wait a decision thereon."

Now, from this passage anyone would infer that such a correspondence had taken place between the Dominion Government and the Quebec Government since the last Session of the Federal Parliament. It is for a copy of such correspondence, therefore, that I have the honor, in the absence of the Hon. Mr. Laurier, to propose this motion.

Mr. LANGEVIN. The inference drawn by the hon. gentleman from the speech of the Treasurer of Quebec is quite reasonable. But, perhaps, the hon. mover might also draw the conclusion that, without actual correspondence, there might be simply communications between the two Governments—might be no correspondence after all. I am not sure whether there is any. Nevertheless, I have no objection to the motion, and will bring down any correspondence that may exist. If a correspondence is actually proceeding, of course the hon. gentleman will understand that the answer to the motion will have to be delayed till the correspondence is completed.

Motion agreed to.

BOUNDARIES OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Mr. DAWSON, in moving for return of all correspondence which has taken place within the past year between the Government of the Dominion and the Imperial Government, on matters relating to the boundaries of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, said: When this question came up last year I endeavored to show