

would call the attention of the Acting Minister of Railways to the fact that a number of returns moved for at an early period of the Session bearing on this question, have not yet been brought down. On the 5th of February there was a return ordered of the number of persons entering and leaving Manitoba and the North-West by rail. On the 6th February there was an Order issued for the details of the estimates of the Deputy Minister of the Interior of the receipts from the various quantities of land in the North-West amounting to \$58,000,000. On the 9th February there was an Order for the earnings and expenses of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and running expenses in certain divisions; on the same day there was an Order for the joint transactions of the Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway in connection with sale of town sites under the first arrangement; on the 12th February, there was an Order for certain expenses and receipts and some estimates of cost in connection with the construction of the road and its equipment; on same date, there was an Order with reference to land grant bonds, to which only a partial return has been made, a return dealing with the information which is in the possession of the Finance Department and the Order required some information which was to be obtained from the Railway Company; on the 17th, there was an Order for a statement of certain expenditures by the Canadian Pacific Railway; on the 17th February there was an Order for various matters, statement of the \$1,600,000 paid to the North American Contracting Company, a statement of the grades and curves, certain estimates of cost, Ontario and Quebec bond sales, and some other things; on the 24th there was an Order for a return relating to the 615 miles west of Winnipeg, divided into sub-headings; on the 6th February, there was an Order for correspondence with reference to the disallowance of Provincial Acts, and also for the reports of the High Commissioner.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I brought that down.

Mr. BLAKE. I thought that was an answer to Order of the previous year but not to this year.

Mr. POPE. I think all the reports were brought down.

Mr. BLAKE. Well, there is no answer to the return. On the 12th February there was an Order with reference to the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, and I call the First Minister's attention to the deficiency in the return laid on the Table. On the same date there was an Order for the papers in connection with the Short Line in Nova Scotia. There was a little passage of arms as to that Short Line between us, but the hon. gentleman's good nature has caused him to forget altogether that circumstance, which I hoped would have stirred him up to bring down the papers.

Mr. POPE. I will attend to that.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has been attending to it ever since 17th February last. On the 23rd February, there was an Order for a statement with reference to the expenses of ocean mail services.

Mr. CARLING. I will bring it to-morrow.

Mr. Blake. I hope it will come, because we have a contract to deal with now. On the 12th March, there was an Order for correspondence and information with reference to the License Act.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There is also an order of some considerable standing with respect to savings bank depositors, a portion of which, at any rate, I was led to understand as long as three weeks ago was in preparation and would be brought down immediately. It seems to me that the return with respect to savings banks, so far, at any rate, as concerns the Government savings banks contradistinguished from the Post office, could easily be obtained and ought to be brought down.

Mr. BLAKE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I hope the Minister of Finance will be in his place to-morrow, and he will attend to this.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am glad to hear that, but the First Minister, in his absence, could take a note of it. There is another matter to which I would call the attention of the First Minister or the Minister of Militia. I would like to know if it be a fact that the *Globe* correspondent has been either dismissed or forbidden to send any communication from General Middleton's camp.

Mr. CARON. I have seen the statement in the papers, but know absolutely nothing about it. The General, of course, in command of his force, has absolute control over his camp. He has not indicated anything to me about the *Globe* correspondent.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Am I correctly informed that the reporter from another newspaper, I believe the *Mail*, was given permission to attach himself to the Queen's Own, but that the same facility or permission was refused to the reporter from the *Globe*.

Mr. CARON. I can tell the hon. gentleman that every application made to me was refused, among others the application made by the correspondent from the *Mail*.

Mr. CHARLTON. I beg to call the attention of the First Minister to the fact that certain returns were ordered with regard to timber licenses. One set of returns with regard to applications not granted another with regard to applications that have been granted. We have received information as to the applications not granted, but with regard to the licenses granted no information has been received. When may we expect it?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I thought I had brought down every possible return the hon. gentleman had moved for.

Mr. CHARLTON. You brought down nothing this year except a couple of returns with regard to applications not acted upon.

#### THE FRANCHISE BILL.

House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 103) respecting the Electoral Franchise.—(Sir John A. Macdonald.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 3, "qualification of voters in cities and towns,"

Mr. CHARLTON. Before you put the motion, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the qualification of voters in cities and towns, I wish to put an amendment in your hands dealing with the franchise question. We have reached now the fundamental principle of the Bill, the principle of taking the control of the franchise from the Provinces and giving it to the Dominion. All the other provisions of the Bill, of course, rest upon this section and are cognate to it. The fundamental principle of the Bill is the recognition of power and the exercise of power on the part of the Dominion Government, to control the franchises, with reference to the elections of members to the House of Commons, that hitherto have been in the control of the different Provinces of the Dominion; and I shall proceed to the discussion of that great and broad principle that underlies all the provisions of this Bill. I shall, of course, hold myself at liberty to make incidental reference to any provisions of the Bill which are cognate to this provision and rest upon it. It is noticeable, I think it must be apparent to all who have listened to the debates upon this Bill, that the advocacy of this measure has been a feeble advocacy. From the speech of the right hon. gentleman who introduced the Bill, lasting but a few minutes and dealing with very few of its provisions, deal-