

4. If there is a difference in the rates, what are they, and why the difference?

5. Will the Government make the rates over their telegraph lines in the counties of Victoria and Inverness uniform?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). 1. 130½ miles with a twenty-knot cable to St. Paul's Island. 2. 63 miles. 3 and 4. The through and local rate between North Sydney and Meat Cove is 25 cents per ten words and 1 cent for each additional word. On the line between Mabou and Cheticamp (Inverness) the through rate (on business exchange with the Western Union Telegraph Company) is 15 cents and 1 cent, and the local rate is 25 cents and 2 cents. The through and local rate on the Meat Cove line was, prior to 1892, 25 cents and 2 cents, but in readjusting the rates to the Magdalen Islands, with which that line also connects, it was changed to 25 cents and 1 cent. A lower rate was not considered warrantable, because of the length of the line being over 100 miles. At the time the Cheticamp line was built (in 1887) the former rate of 25 cents and 2 cents was applied to it as on the Meat Cove line; but in view of the comparative shortness of its length, the exceptional rate of 15 cents and 1 cent was fixed for through messages. No dissatisfaction was expressed with this arrangement, and it has continued undisturbed up to the present time. 5. The attention of the department has been called to the advisability of a uniform rate being established and the department now has the matter under serious consideration.

POSTMASTER AT ST. CYPRIEN, P.Q.

Mr. BERGERON asked,

1. Was there an investigation held upon the postmaster at St. Cyprien, county of Napierville?
2. Who was the commissioner?
3. How much did the investigation cost?
4. What was the result of the investigation?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes. 2. Mr. Wilfrid Mercier, advocate, Montreal. 3. \$40. 4. The postmaster was relieved of his office.

CUSTOMS OFFICER AT BATH, ONT.

Mr. WILSON asked,

Who is customs officer at the village of Bath, Ontario? When was he appointed? By whom was he recommended, and what is his salary?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). Mr. David T. Rowse is sub-collector of customs at the village of Bath. He was appointed on the 13th day of May, 1898. His salary is \$150 per annum. Mr. Rowse was recommended to me by parties in whom I have confidence.

Mr. BETHUNE.

CUSTOMS COLLECTOR AT NAPANEE.

Mr. WILSON asked,

Is Thomas E. Anderson the collector of customs at Napanee, Ontario, also gas inspector, and collector of inland revenue? If so, what amount is he paid in each case, or for each of these offices?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). Mr. Thomas E. Anderson, collector of customs at Napanee, acts for the Inland Revenue Department, in the collection of excise duties, and is paid a commission of five per cent on his collections up to \$3,000. If the amount collected in any one year exceeds that sum, a salary is paid according to the following scale:—

- Over \$3,000 and up to \$5,000—\$150 per annum.
- Over \$5,000 and up to \$10,000—\$200 per annum.
- Over \$10,000—\$250 per annum.

Mr. Anderson does not fill the position of gas inspector at that place.

CARETAKER, PUBLIC BUILDING, NAPANEE.

Mr. WILSON asked,

1. Who is caretaker of the public building in Napanee, Ontario?
2. When was he appointed, and by whom was he recommended?
3. What is his salary, and has he to take care of all the offices for his salary without any extras?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). 1. Robert Webster. 2. He was appointed on the 1st April last, and was highly recommended by people in whom the Minister has great confidence. 3. \$400 per year, the same as his predecessor received, for which he has to take care of all the offices without any extras.

BERTHIER POST OFFICE.

Mr. BEAUSOLELL (by Mr. Sutherland) asked,

1. Whether it is true, as stated in "La Gazette de Berthier," on May 13th instant, that the Dominion Government have definitely acquired the Huguenise property at Berthier, with a view to converting it into a post office?
2. If so, when was the acquisition effected?
3. From whom?
4. What price was paid or agreed upon?
5. Are the buildings on the property such as are required for the post office, and if so, what sum will require to be expended for repairs and fitting out the office, and when can the postmaster enter into possession?
6. Is the property held under lease or otherwise, and if under lease, how many years has such lease to run?
7. What is the yearly rental and the amount of the capital it represents?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). 1. Yes. 2. Deed is not yet