

Mr. DAVIES moved that the motion be amended by adding the following words: "Also, statement of any special freight charges of the Intercolonial Railway allowed to the Spring Hill Mines Coal Company for the carriage of coal from the Spring Hill Mines to Montreal, also the ordinary freight charges of the said railway for coal, fish and agricultural products from the principal stations on the said railway in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to Montreal."

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

ST. CROIX COTTON FACTORY.

Mr. INNES moved for a statement showing the value of machinery imported for the St. Croix cotton factory at St. Stephen's, N.B., the date of import, the amount of duties chargeable on the same, the amount paid and the amount still due and the security held therefor, and copies of all correspondence on the subject.

Mr. BOWELL. I would like the hon. gentleman to inform the House what object he has in moving for these papers. I am not aware there is anything peculiar in the importation of machinery or the collection of duties in connection with the St. Croix cotton factory any more than there is with any other factory in the Dominion. If there is anything wrong, I should like to know what it is, and I am sure the House would be glad to know the facts connected with it.

Mr. INNES. The papers will show that. What I wish to know and what the House wishes to know, is, whether this factory is indebted to the Government for duties.

Mr. WELDON. The statement of the affairs of that Company some time ago showed that a large amount of money was due the Government for duty. If that is the case, we wish to know whether the Government have taken a first lien on the factory and claim priority, as the hon. Minister of Finance did in the case of the Exchange Bank.

Mr. BOWELL. I have no knowledge of the statement referred to. No instructions were issued to give that cotton factory any advantage in connection with the payment of duties upon the machinery they imported, other than given any other similar company in the country. Of course the hon. gentleman will understand I am not questioning the veracity of what he says, but I have no knowledge of the settlement of which he speaks. The practice that has been in vogue in connection with the importation of machinery for any of these establishments has been this: They have been allowed to bring in the machinery to place in their mills. It goes in piecemeal, but after it is placed they are asked to pay the duty before operations are allowed to begin. That is the practice that has been carried out in connection with the Montreal factories, and not only cotton but other factories throughout the country, as well. If there has been anything remiss in the collection of duties down there, it has not been through any instructions given from the Department.

Mr. BLAKE. It is quite clear there has been very serious remissness, for I have been given a copy of the statement of the affairs of that company, which has been in operation for a considerable time, and in that statement there is an indebtedness to the Dominion Government for Customs duty on machinery, to the amount, if I remember aright, of something over \$30,000. If it be the case that the invariable instructions of the Department have been to allow the machinery to be first set up as it goes in piecemeal, and then to insist on the payment of duty before operations begin, it is clear there has been a violation of those instructions, on the present occasion, of a very serious character. I assume the Government has a lien of priority for those duties; perhaps the hon. gentleman will inform me if that be so. It is

Mr. INNES.

clear that if persons have lent money on mortgage on the the factory, or have become its creditors generally, and afterwards find that the Government have a superior lien on the property, innocent persons may be very much embarrassed, and the indulgence of the hon. gentleman's officer may add to the distress occasioned to the people by the unfortunate failures that have cropped up throughout the country.

Mr. BOWELL. There is no question as to the lien the Government holds on all property brought into the country, on which duty has not been paid. That has been settled lately in a suit instituted in Montreal. I can inform the hon. leader of the Opposition that it is just possible that portions of the machinery may have been imported and not used, that a number of looms may have been placed in the mill and never yet used, and the delay in collecting the duties may have arisen from that fact. In some cases that fact has been called to my attention when I asked why the full amount had not been collected. Acting on instructions to collect the duties before operations commenced in the different mills, these may have been allowed to remain standing for too long a time.

Motion agreed to.

"A," "B" AND "C" BATTERIES.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex) moved for a return showing the number of officers, non-commissioned officers and men at present comprising "A", "B" and "C" Batteries, the Cavalry School and the Schools of Infantry; also, return giving the names of the commissioned officers of "A", "B" and "C" Batteries, the Cavalry School and the three Infantry Schools, distinguishing such as are graduates of the Royal Military College; also, the dates of appointment of each, and the date of their commissions in the Militia; also, showing their previous service, and their qualifications.

Mr. WELDON moved in amendment that the following words be added to the motion: "And from what Provinces they respectively come."

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. FORTIN. Mr. Speaker, before this House proceeds with the business of the evening, I would like to make some explanation relating to part of a speech made last Monday by the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart). My remarks will be in the shape of a personal explanation. During the said speech, the hon. member pronounced the following astounding words. The hon. gentleman, it appears, wanted to pay a great compliment to the discipline that was carried on on board a vessel which I had the honour to command for sixteen years, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but we will see whether he carried out his purpose. The hon. gentleman said:

"Let me make a comparison between the state of efficiency of the Militia of this country and that of our Navy. A few moments ago I observed Commander Fortin in his seat. Let us see how men in the navy have learned that the first duty is obedience. When an order comes from a superior they at once obey it. On one of the little excursions down the River St. Lawrence, Commander Fortin, of the Canadian Navy, was on board. While going down the river, the men had a line run out aft for the purpose of catching fish. They hooked a porpoise. On hauling it on board the steamer, Commander Fortin said it was a shark. The men all thought it was a porpoise. But the Commander said it was a shark; and ever from that day to this, wherever the broad pennant of the Canadian Navy floats, a porpoise is known as a shark."

Well, now, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that this article is—I do not know whether the word ludicrous is a proper word; I should say in French *prête à rire* rather than anything else. Let me explain that the hon. gentleman has