

staff, that change has been made on the recommendation of the committee; and I do not see how the committee could exercise control over the Debates, or could be made reasonably responsible for the proper conduct of the Debates, unless they had that power of making recommendations to the House. Here is a case where three officials on the *Hansard* staff are acknowledged to be underpaid, and that is especially the case with regard to Mr. Boyce. The increase for Mr. Boyce was recommended by the committee last year, but the report was not acted on, and during a year or more Mr. Boyce has been serving at a rate of pay which the committee last year reported was insufficient. If the matter now goes before the Commission of Internal Economy it will perhaps be laid over for another year, and cause considerable hardship to Mr. Boyce; for even if the recommendation of the committee is adopted, he will still be an underpaid official. Although, as a constitutional question, the Minister of Public Works no doubt takes a correct view of this matter, I think it will be better to continue the practice which has been in vogue hitherto, and allow the committee to exercise that jurisdiction over the officers of the Debates which they have exercised hitherto, and in this case to act on their recommendation.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. What I ask is to have the report postponed in order that we may consider it for a couple of days, after which the chairman of the committee may bring up his motion again. My remarks about the Commission of Internal Economy apply specially to Messrs. Hartney and Brewer, who are officers of this House. The other officer, Mr. Boyce, as I understand, is an officer under the committee, and not a regular officer of the House, and that would make the circumstances different. Under these circumstances, we would like a little time to look into the matter, and the House will perhaps agree to my motion to adjourn the debate.

Mr. DESJARDINS. It is understood that I shall be able to bring it up again in the same way.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes, in the same way, but the hon. gentleman will be kind enough to let me know when he intends to bring it up.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### REPRESENTATION OF BEAUHARNOIS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from Mr. Justice Bélanger, one of the Judges selected for the trial of controverted elections, his judgment relating to the election for the Electoral District of Beauharnois, by which judgment the sitting member had been declared to be duly elected.

#### THE CRIMINAL LAW.

Mr. THOMPSON moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 100) respecting the application to Canada of the Criminal Law of England. He said: In each of the Provinces there is a date at which the criminal law of England ceases to have application, and the result is a want of uniformity in the criminal code of Canada. The object of this Bill is to fix as the date the 1st of July, 1867, and to provide that the law of England, except in so far as it has been amended or repealed by any Provincial Act then in force or an Act of the Parliament of Canada subsequently passed, shall be applicable to Canada.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Would not that make a number of decisions on matters of criminal law that have been given by the different courts of the Provinces no longer applicable, and unsettle as well as settle? It would make a very slight difference, if the criminal law of England

should be applicable; but at a subsequent stage, I will bring down a table showing the changes this would make.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### FISHERY BOUNTY CHEQUES.

Mr. FLYNN asked, Whether the Fishery Bounty cheques have been distributed to the fishermen yet? If not, when will they?

Mr. FOSTER. In some districts they have been already distributed; in others, they are being distributed. They differ for different districts.

#### MEGANTIC POSTAL SERVICE.

Mr. TURCOT asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to establish postal service between the villages of West Broughton and Lemesurier, in the County of Megantic, in view of the fact that while the said villages are but six miles apart, communication sent by mail must traverse a circuit of two hundred and sixty-two miles each way, and that there is a comparatively large business between the two places?

Mr. McLELAN. It is not the intention of the Government to establish such postal service.

#### UNOCCUPIED LANDS—OLD LEASES.

Mr. DAVIS asked, Whether the lands covered by old leases, which have not been stocked or occupied, are to be kept closed to settlement for an indefinite period?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. No, these leases are being cancelled as rapidly as possible.

#### POSTAL SERVICE—VICTORIA COUNTY.

Mr. TROW (for Mr. BARRON) asked, Has the Government received petitions from the public in the vicinity of Uphill, in the County of Victoria, asking them to establish a daily postal service between Uphill and the village of Victoria Road? If so, when was the first petition or request in that behalf received? What answer was made to the petitioners, and what does the Government intend to do in the premises?

Mr. McLELAN. The Government has received petitions for a daily mail service over this route. The first petition received was dated 19th, October, 1886 and addressed to Hector Cameron, Esq. The reply given was that the Postmaster General would not accede to the petitioners' request.

#### INDIAN TREATY, PEACE RIVER AND ATHABASCA.

Mr. TROW (for Mr. BARRON) asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to make treaty with the Indians north of Treaty Six, in the Peace River and Athabasca District. If so, when?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is not the intention of the Government to make such a treaty now.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF MR. SNETSINGER.

Mr. TROW (for Mr. BARRON) asked, Whether one Snetsinger was at any time employed as carpenter or otherwise in the Government shops at Cornwall? If so, was he dismissed? What was the date of his dismissal, and what was the reason of such dismissal?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Mr. Snetsinger was first employed on the Cornwall canal from January, 1885, until the end of that year, and also during the year 1886. He