

in the city of Kingston, in the province of Ontario. The property was sold under the mortgage in the year 1862. This Bill is to give power to convey the property so sold and to discharge the said mortgage so far as they can be conveyed by Her Majesty, upon the payment of a certain sum of money—I think about 50 per cent of the original claim. During all this time that the Crown has been unable to give a mortgage, the properties, which are not important, have been deteriorating.

Mr. LAURIER. What? Deteriorating?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

Mr. LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. The wood has actually been wearing out although the National Policy has been in force for the latter part of the period. It is the opinion of the department—in which I coincide—that the sooner we get something for this and discharge the mortgage, the less loss we shall ultimately sustain.

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman has not stated as to the origin of the debt which this mortgage is intended to cover, nor has he stated who are the debtors.

Mr. FOSTER. I will explain that fully on second reading.

Mr. LAURIER. It would be hardly sufficient for the hon. gentleman to explain it then, we should have the papers.

Mr. FOSTER. All the papers will be brought down.

Mr. LANDERKIN. If property is deteriorating as rapidly as the hon. gentleman seems to think, it would be well to get this mortgage sold as soon as possible.

Mr. FOSTER. And whilst you have some ready money in hand.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

REPORT.

Report of the Minister of Justice as to Penitentiaries in Canada, for the year ended 30th June, 1894.—(Mr. Curran.)

POST OFFICE ACT AMENDMENT.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 94) to further amend the Post Office Act. He said: The object of this Bill is to prevent the carriers of Her Majesty's mail through the country—but not the railway or steamship companies—from carrying intoxicating liquors in their vehicles from place to place and thus violating the by-laws that are passed in the different municipalities. There is another clause suggesting that this provision be embodied in the contracts for carrying the mails.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CHIGNECTO SHIP RAILWAY.

Mr. WELSH. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call the attention of the Government to an article in the Montreal "Gazette" of to-day in relation to the Chignecto Ship Railway. It is as follows:—

CHIGNECTO SHIP RAILWAY.

Mr. Provan, M.P. for Blackfriars division of Glasgow, and managing director of the Chignecto Marine Railway Company, appeared before Council yesterday and asked for an extension of two years for the completion of the road. The Government guaranteed a subsidy of \$170,000 a year for twenty years after the completion of the work. Mr. Provan explained that about three millions and a half had been expended, and about a million and a half more was needed. This amount had been subscribed by the shareholders, and the work would be completed, if the extension of time asked for was given. Mr. Provan said that it was through no fault of the company that the work was not completed within the time required by the charter. That was caused by the failure of the contractor, Mr. Meigs who was largely interested in contracts in the Argentine Republic at the time of the suspension of Baring Bros. The Government promised to consider the matter. It will be remembered that Mr. Provan and Mr. Ketchum, the engineer of the railway, were here last summer, and went up to Muskoka to see Sir John Thompson about this matter, but did not, so far as is known, succeed in getting any promise from him.

I call the attention of the Government to this matter, and desire to say that it is a serious matter, one that will affect the taxpayers of this country to the extent of about \$3,000,000, if this wild-cat scheme is carried out. I think it would be much better if it were stopped. However, I ask the Government if this account is correct, and if they intend to renew this contract for a further term. We have had this Chignecto Railway project before Parliament for nine years, and I have denounced it for nine years as a wild-cat scheme. If the matter was brought before Parliament, I think the members from New Brunswick—

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think the hon. gentleman ought to make a speech on this matter.

Mr. WELSH. All right.

Mr. FOSTER. With reference to the paragraph which was read, the question was not very definite, but I will give the information that I think the hon. gentleman wished. It is true that Mr. Provan has been here, and has laid the case before the country and before the Government. The Government have not yet made its decision.

I.C.R.—BURNING OF SHEDS AT RICHMOND, N.S.

Mr. STAIRS. I desire to call the attention of the Government to a despatch in the morning paper announcing the destruction