

POST OFFICE OF PICKERING, ONT.

Mr. EDGAR moved for :

Copies of all reports made by Inspector Sweetnam concerning alleged irregularities in connection with the management of Pickering post office, in the county of Ontario, and in particular of his report upon the investigation held by him at the village of Pickering in December, 1883; and copies of all correspondence between Inspector Sweetnam and the Post Office Department relating in any way to charges made against the management of said post office, and a copy of instructions to the Inspector given upon such report.

He said: In December, 1883, one John Logan was the deputy postmaster at Pickering post office. An investigation seems to have been held into the management of that post office in December, 1883, while he was deputy postmaster. I have here a copy of what purports to be the evidence taken at the time by a shorthand reporter for a local newspaper. According to the evidence, it seems that there were charges made and evidence given against the deputy postmaster of overcharges for postal material, of money letters going permanently astray from his office, of opening letters in that office, and of gross delays and mistakes of all sorts, and it is stated in the report that on the conclusion of the evidence the inspector told all those in the room who had complete confidence in Mr. Logan to stand up; 8 stood up and 42 remained seated. Then the inspector said he would report the matter to the Postmaster-General at once and take whatever action was necessary. It is very important that the report which Mr. Sweetnam made after this investigation should be made known, because since then the Government has actually appointed Mr. Logan to the position of postmaster in that place.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. All the documents that the Government can control shall be brought down.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY AND NORTH SHORE RAILWAY COMPANY—CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. LAURIER moved for :

Copies of all correspondence between the Government or any member of the Government with the Canadian Pacific Railway and the North Shore Railway Company, and between the two companies concerning the prolongation of the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the Harbor of Quebec; of all contracts between the said two railway companies in reference to the same; of all Orders in Council passed in reference to the same, together with a statement of all moneys paid by the Government, and of the names of the persons to whom such payments were made, also in reference to the same, and in conformity with the Acts 47 Victoria, Chapter 8, and 48-49 Victoria, Chapter 58.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. All correspondence on this subject which is under the control of the Government shall be brought down.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message as follows:—

LANDS DOWN.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, an approved Minute in Council, appointing the Right Honorable Sir John A. Macdonald, G.C.B., President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, the Honorable Sir Hector Langevin, Minister of Public Works, the Honorable Mr. McLellan, Minister of Finance, and the Honorable Mr. Costigan, Minister of Inland Revenue, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the Act 31 Victoria, Chapter 27, intitled: "An Act respecting the Internal Economy of the House of Commons; and for other purposes."

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

OTTAWA, 5th March, 1886.

Mr. THOMPSON (Antigonish).

RETURNS ORDERED.

Copies of all correspondence with the Minister of Public Works, the Minister of Railways and Canals, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, relative to repairs of the Public Wharf at Port Hastings, Inverness, N. S.—(Mr. Cameron, Inverness.)

Copies of all correspondence with the Department of Public Works, relative to protection required to the north of Smith's Island, to prevent the total destruction of Port Hood Harbor, Inverness, N. S.; also a copy of the Engineer's report thereon.—(Mr. Cameron, Inverness.)

Copies of all letters written by the Provincial Secretaries of the late Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada and Canada, or any officer or officers charged with the proper authority on each of the following subjects: 1. Capital cases in which the Crown refused to exercise the pardoning power, not only in cases which verdicts when rendered were accompanied by a recommendation to mercy, but also in cases in which there were no such recommendations. 2. Capital cases in which the Crown did exercise the prerogative of pardon. 3. Capital cases in which the Crown refused to respite executions where applications had been made for that purpose, with a view towards appealing to the Lords of the Privy Council. 4. Capital cases in which the *faits* for writs of error had been refused by the Attorney-General or the Minister of Justice for the time being.—(Mr. Mackintosh.)

Copies of all Orders in Council in relation to the Half-breed prisoners in the North-West, passed during the three months next preceding the 16th November, 1885.—(Mr. Desaulniers, Maskinongé.)

Copies of all documents forming the record in the cases of Her Majesty against the different parties tried in connection with the late rebellion, including the jury list, the names of jurors, the lists of jurors empanelled, the motions and affidavits filed, the evidence, the incidents of the trial, the charges of the Judge, the names of the Judges who tried the different cases, the names of the counsel for the prosecution and for the defence, the pleas entered, the verdicts and the sentences, and, in short, of every document whatever relating to the said trial.—(Mr. Laurier.)

Sir JOHN MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 4:5 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 8th March, 1886.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

Report of the Minister of the Interior for the year 1885.—(Mr. White, Cardwell.)

Report of the Minister of Agriculture for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1885.—(Mr. Pope.)

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 20) to provide for the Punishment of Seduction, and to afford Protection to Women and Girls.—(Mr. Charlton.)

SUPREME AND EXCHEQUER COURT.

Mr. EDGAR moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 21) to further amend the Supreme and Exchequer Court Act. He said: While the Supreme Court Act seems to make full provision for deciding controversies between the Dominion and any Province, or between one Province and another, it is more than doubtful whether a Province has the power to apply of its own motion to ascertain the opinion of the Supreme Court as to the validity of any of its own statutes; and it does seem to me to be not unreasonable that the Provinces should have the power. It looks hard that private parties should have to bear the expense, and very often losses of other kind, in testing the validity of Provincial Statutes in the courts, whereas we might, I think, by a very simple provision enable the Provincial