

SUPPLY—STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH P.E.I.—SNOW BLOCKADE IN MARITIME PROVINCES—DELAY OF MAIIS—*Con.*

Préfontaine, Hon. R. (Minister of Marine and Fisheries)—1753.

Reads a despatch from A. Lord, Charlottetown—1753.

SUPPLY—SUPREME COURT, NOVA SCOTIA—VACANT JUDGESHIP—6837.

Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—6837.

I said I would bring up again the question of the vacancy upon the bench of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia—6837.

Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister) —6837.

The question of Borden is quite reasonable, and I shall make it my duty to accede to it—6837.

SUPPLY—TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS—9533.

Johnston, A. (Cape Breton)—9535.

Can not discuss the matter unless the report is on the table—9535. Maclean may say he is not discussing the report but there can be no doubt that he is—9536.

Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister) —9535.

Maclean is discussing a question referred to a committee of the House—9535. Maclean's inconsistency. Wants two new laws passed this session—9539. Were serious in appointing the committee and upon its report we will be prepared to act—9540.

Maclean, W. F. (East York)—9533.

The repeal of the Railway Commission to give Fort William and Port Arthur to enter C.P.R. depots—9533. Railways common carriers, and so bound to treat all people alike—9534. Not discussing the finding of the Committee but of the Railway Commission—9535. There are two substantial grievances in the finding of the Commission—9536. Telephone development has been arrested by reason of the monopolistic position of the Bell company 9537. What is wanted is more energy on the part of the government—9538. Two short clauses will compel the railway companies to admit telephone companies to their stations—9539.

Zimmerman, A. (Hamilton)—9535.

Maclean in discussing the report is guilty of a breach of privilege—9535.

SUPPLY—TENDER FOR PUBLIC DOCK AT COLLINGWOOD—6572.

Bennett, W. H. (East Simcoe)—6572.

In reference to matters in which the general public apparently think there is not exactly fair dealing—6572. If it is the one I am informed it is, there may be a reason why he should be dropped—6573. What is to be the action of the department in reference to this contract—6574. Mr. Conroy and Mr. Battle are not unknown to each

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other by nay means—6575. It could be arranged for Mr. Conroy to drop out and for Mr. Battle to drop in it would be a very nice arrangement—6576. This contractor who has had a \$30,000 work offered to him does not figure in Bradstreets—6577. The contract is to be given to Battle Bros., for \$30,000 or \$5,000 higher—6578. Now you have accepted the lowest tender and held it for two months, you do not force the contract—6579. What may be only a trifling sum may be to him thousands and thousands—6580. I do not think the public service will suffer by stating who the lowest man is—6582. I say that Mr. McCarthy was authority for the fact, as stated in the paper—6583.

Bergeron, J. G. H. (Beauharnois)—6576.

They called for tenders last October—6576. Has Fielding seen the figures or is he repeating what he has been told?—6580. It might be ; it has been done before—6581.

Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—6580.

Why is silence with regard to that more important than silence with regard to the one under consideration?—6580. Fielding can see here that this tender was for \$25,000 and the other in the vicinity of \$30,000—6581. How long ago was that?—6582. No action has been taken either with regard to the forfeiture of his cheque or the assignment of the contract—6584. It should not take five or six weeks to come to some conclusion—6585.

Fielding, Hon. Wm. S. (Minister of Finance)— 6572.

I could not tell Bennett who they are I have no means of knowing—6572. I have no knowledge of any firm of Conroy Bros. in the matter. There is an individual named Conroy—6573. The contract has not been executed because Mr. Conroy refused to execute it—6574. Since taking the second tenders and awarding the contract to Mr. Conroy nothing has been done—6575. He had quite enough substitutes on the other side to make it good—6576. I thought hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House acted on principle—6577. I think it is a pity Bennett did not wait until there was some substantial ground to bring the matter up—6578. To Bennett's suspicious mind there must absolutely be some corruption somewhere—6579-80. I do not think that a deputy minister or an engineer would put figures before me which were not correct—6581. Decided that he would not award the contract at a price which he believed to be excessive—6582. That is not the line taken by Bennett ; it is the rat he is after—6583. Perhaps Borden will find some day that there are reasons for delays—6585.

Finlay, John (East Peterborough)—6583.

Mr. Conroy asked for his cheque to be returned to him and I heard Fielding refuse to give it—6583.