

in order to facilitate navigation. The lowering of the water will be a mistake.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. The intention is not to lower the normal level of the lake, but the channel of the river has become closed up by boulders, which are carried in by the ice, and the channel of the outlet is silted up. The object is to make an additional outlet so as to maintain the lake at its normal level. There is no question of lowering the lake but of keeping it within proper bounds.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. The complaint is that it overflows, and the present work is to prevent this.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. If the lake is kept at its normal level it will not overflow.

Mr. HAGGART. But the hon. gentleman must understand that if you take obstructions from the mouth of the river to keep the lake at its normal level you will have to put these obstructions back again or have a system of locks or dams.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. The lake is a natural receptacle for the drainage of a very large section of country; and after a series of wet years, the number of rivers flowing into the lake being so much in excess of the outlet from it, the water accumulates in the lake, and the object is to make an additional outlet so that the extra water which flows in will be allowed to flow out. By taking proper precautions and not getting below the level of the bed rock, the water will be maintained at its normal level.

Mr. HAGGART. It will be a very nice job to dredge it so exactly at the outlet as to keep it at its normal level at all times of the year. It will be requisite not only to deepen the outlet but have some means of regulating the outflow by wier or dam.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The engineer will settle that question.

Mr. HAGGART. When the hon. gentleman comes down for a grant, he should be in a position to give all the information required.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. My chief engineer is away.

Mr. HAGGART. Then he should have left you a written brief.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman has had a whole year, and he is just as much destitute of information as he was last year. He has, therefore, no excuse as he would have if it were a new item.

Mr. HAGGART. That may lay over until immediately before an election, and the hon. gentleman may then get the work done by day labour. We must have his promise that he will not wait until an election and will not have it done by day labour.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I will promise not to wait until an election comes on but go on with the work this year.

Mr. HAGGART. Here is \$25,000 which he asks us to spend and which he can draw on at his leisure. He should be prepared with estimates and plans and everything before asking the vote. He must give us the promise that if he does expend this sum, he will invite tenders.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. If I do the work at all, I will do it by contract.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Will the hon. Minister promise that he will keep his promise?

Resolutions to be reported.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. HAGGART. What will be the business on Monday?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The resolution concerning judges salaries, a few little Bills, and then the Estimates.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 23rd May, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved:

That when the House adjourns this day it stand adjourned until Wednesday, the 25th instant.

Motion agreed to.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 149) to authorize certain contracts with steamship companies for cold storage accommodation.—(Mr. Fielding.)

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 141)—from the the Senate—respecting the Great North-west Central Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I beg leave to call the attention of the Government to the fact that two weeks ago the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), whom I do not see in his place, promised to bring down