

CIVIL SERVICE—COUNTY OF GASPE.

Mr. CASGRAIN (for Mr. Chauvin) asked :

1. Who was appointed, by the present Government, to hold inquiries in relation to the civil service in the county of Gaspé? ;
2. The number of such inquiries?
3. Salary and expenses of commissioner?
4. Duration of his mission ; its object and nature?
5. At whose request, and on whose recommendation was the said commissioner appointed?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). 1. Charles A. Lebel. 2. Three inquiries held in Gaspé for Marine and Fisheries. 3. Salary allowed by Order in Council : \$4 per diem and living and travelling expenses ; \$200 paid on account of salary and expenses. 4. Employed thirty-six days in investigation. The object and nature was to investigate charges against Government officials of political partisanship on the occasion of the last Dominion election, or of inefficiency in the discharge of their duties. 5. Mr. Lemieux, M.P.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked :

By whom was the settlement of the school question signed, after the same was agreed upon by both the Federal and provincial governments, and why are not the names given in the copy brought down?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I have already stated to the hon. gentleman that the negotiations which took place between the Canadian Government and the Manitoba Government were confidential. When they were concluded, the terms of the agreement were communicated to the press and taken back to Manitoba by the commissioners of the Manitoba Government, and afterwards embodied in the Act of that legislature.

FISHERY GUARDIANS, NORTH VICTORIA.

Mr. HUGHES asked :

1. Who were fishery "guardians" in the waters of North Victoria, including Sturgeon, Cameron, Balsam, Mud Turtles, Moore's, Gull, Kushog, and other North Victoria lakes, and Fenelon Falls and Gull River, last year, under direction of Fishery Overseer Fitzgerald?
2. Are these guardians yet in the service of the Government?
3. Have others, or any, been appointed since July, 1896?
4. If so, what is the name of each?
5. Why were the former officers, guardians, or any of them, removed?
6. When were they retired?
7. By whom were the new men appointed?
8. What is the date of the authority or appointment of the new guardians by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries?
9. Had the department, at Ottawa, anything to do with the retirement of the former guardians or with the appointment of the new ones?

Mr. LAURIER.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). 1. J. W. O'Brien, Sturgeon Lake and Goose Lake ; Thomas Johnston, Cameron Lake ; Wm. Wellwood and Dougald Sinclair, Balsam Lake ; Wm. Batty, Mud Turtle Lake ; Thomas Leary, Moore and Gull Lake ; John Mortimer, Bohs and Deer Lake ; George Hewitt, Gull River ; A. Martin, Burnt River. 2. No. 3. The parties mentioned in answer to No. 1 were employed since July, 1896. 4. Answered by No. 1. 5. The time of their engagement having expired, they are no longer in the employ of the department. 6. The time of their engagement expired on the 15th April inst. 7. No guardians in this riding have yet been engaged, but they will be appointed at once. 8. Answered by No. 7. 9. Their time of engagement had expired and new guardians will be named to the fishery officer by the department.

COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS. N.W.T.

Mr. DAVIS asked :

Are the collectors of customs at the ports of York Factory, Moose Factory and Churchill officials of the Hudson's Bay Company? When were they appointed, and do they receive any salary? If so, at what rate are they paid?

The CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). The Department of Customs understands that the customs officers at York Factory and Moose Factory are also officers of the Hudson Bay Company. There is no customs officer at Churchill. The present officer at York Factory was appointed on the 1st of July, 1893, and his salary is \$200 per year. The present officer at Moose Factory was appointed on the 1st September, 1892, and his salary is \$200 per year.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would like to mention to the hon. members that I have directed a little change or addition to be made to the Votes and Proceedings which are laid on the tables of hon. members every day, by adding to them a statement of the meetings of the committees of the House, which I think will be kept up as completely as possible by the clerk of committees. Unless they are very suddenly called by a notice from the chairman, the places and times of meetings will be placed in the Votes and Proceedings.

RAILWAY EXPENDITURES.

Mr. MARTIN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish again to call the attention of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) to an order that was agreed to last session calling for a statement of the expenditures on railways in the different provinces. It is very necessary to have this statement laid before the House at an early day. I have a notice of motion