

SUPPLIES FOR REPAIRS OF VESSELS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER moved for :

Copies of all correspondence since the 20th of July last between the Department of Marine and Fisheries at Ottawa and the officers thereof or others respecting supplies for repair of vessels and steamers under the control of that department which are in the habit of visiting at the port of Charlottetown, Georgetown and Pictou, and are employed either for the protection of the coast fisheries or in the supervision and maintenance of lights.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have no objection at all to the motion, but I do not understand that there are any papers. Would the hon. gentleman indicate more definitely what he refers to ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. For instance, there were instructions in regard to supplies which those vessels should take at the different ports of distribution, and in regard to the patronage connected with those vessels, at the time those gentlemen took office. Since then, I understand, these vessels do not take supplies at Pictou : and in connection particularly with one ship which went in there to coal : she was ordered out of the port after coaling, and sent over to Charlottetown to be supplied there. I take it that in connection with that matter there must have been instructions cancelling previous instructions, though I know nothing of it. But, as the hon. gentleman has no objection to the motion passing, if there is correspondence, it will be brought down ; if not, there can be no harm done.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have no objection.

Motion agreed to.

CULLING OF TIMBER.

Mr. QUINN moved for :

Return showing the number of cubic feet of square, round and waney timber of every description and the number of standards of deals and other lumber exported from the port of Montreal, in each year from and including 1890 to the 30th June of the present year 1896, giving the names of the exporters and the quantity of each kind of timber or other lumber shipped by each exporter and the amount of culler's fees paid by each exporter ; and in cases where fees have not been paid, the return to show what amount should have been paid and by whom.

The CONTROLLER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir H. Joly de Lotbinière). There can be no objection to that motion, but I would make a suggestion to my hon. friend, in order to save a good deal of useless work in copying some letters which, though they may indirectly allude to this matter, are really of no importance. I hope my hon. friend will do me the pleasure of calling at the office, and I will look over the papers with him in order that we may agree upon those that he may consider indispensable.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER.

SUBSIDIES TO NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. OLIVER moved for :

Copies of all memorials, resolutions or other documents from the legislative assembly of the North-west Territories for an increase of subsidy, and all correspondence in connection with the same.

He said : Mr. Speaker, I would ask the House to listen for a short time to an explanation of the object for which this motion is made. The motion is moved in order to afford information to the House on a subject of considerable interest to the House and to the country. It is a subject in regard to which efforts have been made for the enlightenment of the House in the past, or rather for the enlightenment of the late Government, but the information never reached the House, and it seems to me it would be well to take up a short time of this sitting in order to arrive at an understanding of this question. The motion relates to the financial condition of the legislature of the North-west Territories in its connection with this Government. The position occupied by the Territories at the present time is very similar to the position of a province, that is to say, the territorial government and legislature have all, or nearly all, the responsibilities of a provincial government or legislature, and at the same time they have much greater responsibilities than the government of any province, owing to the immense area of country they are expected to govern and the difficulties of carrying on that government. While the North-west government and legislature have almost equal power and greater responsibility than the government of a province, the government and legislature are confronted with the position that they have not adequate finances, and those finances have been inadequate for some years past. The area under the government of the North-west Territories is, roughly speaking, something like 600 miles square : it is very much larger than the settled area of all the eastern provinces of the Dominion, and settlement being scattered more or less over this great area, the expense and difficulty of carrying on the government are proportionately increased. It is not only that there is a great area over which settlement is scattered, but there is also diversity of interest. There is the wheat raising interest in the east, the cattle raising interest in the west, the coal mining in the mountains, and the trading interest in the far north—a diversity of interests that renders legislation and government in that country more difficult probably than in any province, or, at all events, in any province having a similar population. The population of the Territories in 1891 was stated as 66,799, and the subsidies at that time derived from the Dominion Parliament amounted in 1892 to \$211,200. Since that time the