

lumbia. It is true that representations have been made by the Canadian Pacific Railway, asking that as little detention as possible should be given to their steamers on arrival at that port, but neither the Canadian Pacific Railway nor anybody else of authority in the country has asked that anything should be done which would at all endanger the health of the people, or give any opportunity for the introduction of disease into that country. I may tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) that whatever he may think, or whatever rumours he may imagine have been started, there is no foundation whatever in the idea which he seems to insinuate has been expressed, and perhaps thinks is true, that through the influence of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, exceptional privileges have been given to anybody at the quarantine station at William's Head, or elsewhere. This explanation is perhaps complete enough to satisfy the hon. member (Mr. Prior) that everything calculated to make the quarantine station at William's Head complete, is being carried out as rapidly as possible. A great deal of the improvements have already been accomplished, and there will be nothing done to interfere unnecessarily with the traffic between China and Japan and the city of Victoria.

But at the same time, in the interest of the public health, it is absolutely necessary on certain occasions—and I think this occasion is one—that a proper period of incubation of the disease should be allowed to pass before even the saloon passengers should be allowed to land, and perhaps occasion danger to the community in which the hon. gentleman lives.

Mr. PRIOR. Might I be allowed to make an explanation. The hon. the Minister must have known that I made no charge whatever against Dr. Watt. I specially stated that I was not prepared to make any charge against Dr. Watt, and I do not see why the Minister made out that I had. The hon. the Minister stated that I knew this account was exaggerated. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; I simply read it in the newspaper, and I knew nothing else about it, and that is the reason I asked for information. How could I know it was exaggerated? I thought it was a correct account of what had taken place, and that is the reason I asked for information upon it. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) also said that I insinuated that the Canadian Pacific Railway influence had been brought to bear. I simply said that I had heard the rumour. As this was of such tremendous importance to my constituents, I thought I was right in saying that I heard the rumour, and in asking what action had been taken by the Government.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The rumour is unfounded.

Mr. MAXWELL. Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be allowed—

Mr. FISHER.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Maxwell) must bear in mind that no general discussion is possible at this stage of the proceedings. This was a very urgent matter, and it has now been referred to in the House at considerable length by the hon. member who raised the point and the Minister who replied. No general debate can possibly be allowed upon it now. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Maxwell) has a mere question to ask, or a statement of a very brief character to make on this matter, perhaps the House would hear him, but it must not be enlarged into a discussion or debate.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAILS.

Mr. MARTIN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the Government—I am sorry the hon. the Postmaster General is not in his place—to the fact that we have had no mail from Prince Edward Island for about a week. I would like to ask if the Government is aware of this condition of things? It is not very often that we are a week behind in getting news from that part of the Dominion at this season of the year, especially as we have a new boat, the "Petrel." What has happened her? I would like to ask if the Government have any information as to the cause of the delay?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In the absence of the Postmaster General, I may simply say that it is impossible for an answer to be given to the hon. gentleman, but I have no doubt that every precaution is being taken to overcome as rapidly as possible the difficulties he has pointed out.

BANK NOTE CONTRACT.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the acting Prime Minister if that note contract is brought down yet, or is in a position to be brought down? I am very anxious to have it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I cannot say in the absence of the Prime Minister, when it will be brought down, but I have no doubt that it will be as soon as possible.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, for the House to go into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. Speaker, the prolongation of the debate on the Budget may perhaps be excused, considering the number of incidental proceedings that go on each day