

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY CONTRACTS

Mr. Fiset asked whether the contractors for sections 8, 13, 17, 18 and 19 of the Intercolonial Railway had filed accounts for extra work, and if so, what was the amount claimed by each contractor.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said that many of the accounts had been filed, but it would be quite impossible for him, in answer to the question, to make a statement in reference to these accounts. It would be better if his hon. friend moved for a return, in which case he would have the papers prepared.

* * *

THE MIRAMICHI RIVER

Hon. Mr. Mitchell asked whether it was the intention of the Government to employ the new dredge, for which engagements were made by the late government, in deepening Horseshoe Bay in the Miramichi River in pursuance of the promise made by the late Government for that purpose.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said the question implied something which he did not know to be established. He was not aware of any promise that the late Government made, but he might say that the dredge power in the possession of the Government was not sufficient to accomplish all the work which it was desirable to accomplish, and as soon as the new dredge came from England all the dredge power the Government had would be employed, first in the harbour that seemed to be of the greatest commercial importance, and afterwards in the minor ones.

* * *

DUTCH STANDARD

Mr. Stephenson asked whether the customs or any department or officer of the Customs Department was provided with Dutch Standards prior to the new tariff, or if such Dutch Standards had since been procured, and if so, when.

Hon. Mr. Burpee (St. John - City & County) said No. 9 Dutch standard had been supplied to all the departments, and steps had been taken to supply the other numbers.

* * *

NOVA SCOTIA HARBOURS

Mr. Church asked whether it was the intention of the Government to take measures to deepen the harbours of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, this year, in accordance with the report of the engineer, and, if not this year, when would a dredge be ordered to perform such work.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said the dredging in Mahone Bay could only be done by a dredge of greater power than any the Government had in their possession. That was one of the places that would have to be dredged, probably by the new dredge when it came from England. The contract with the builder in England required that this dredge should be furnished in the month of August and it might be out in time to do that and other work this fall. They were not quite certain on this point, however.

* * *

PICTOU RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Carmichael asked if the Government intended making any appropriation, or taking any measure for improving the navigation of the East River of Pictou, between South Pictou loading wharves and New Glasgow.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said the same reply must be made to the question as was made to the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Church) and Northumberland (Hon. Mr. Mitchell). The Government recognized the importance of improving the navigation in the vicinity of Pictou, which was probably one of the greatest shipping ports in the Dominion for the iron and coal deposits there. It was the intention of the Government to have an examination of the river made, with the view of making such improvements as might be considered necessary and desirable.

* * *

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS

Mr. Trow asked whether it was the intention of the Government to abolish postage upon newspapers delivered in the county of publication.

Hon. Mr. MacDonald (Glengarry) said it was not the intention of the Government to take any steps in the matter at present.

* * *

WELLAND CANAL SOLICITORSHIP

Mr. Plumb asked whether the solicitor of the Welland Canal resigned his office prior to the late election; whether, if he resigned, he had been re-appointed; and whether, if not re-appointed, he was conducting the business of the said office, and what were its estimated emoluments for the past and current years.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said that the solicitor of the Welland Canal did not resign, so he had not, of course, been re-appointed. He was conducting the business of the said office, and he (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) had no means of estimating the emoluments of the office for the past or the current year.

* * *

ADDRESS DEFERRED

Mr. Costigan stated that he had intended to move for an address to Her Majesty on the subject of the law respecting Common Schools, adopted by the Local Legislature of New Brunswick in 1871, and praying for the passing of an Act making certain amendments to the British North America Act, 1867, but several members, who had temporarily left Ottawa, had requested him to defer the motion for a few days.

* * *

INDIAN AFFAIRS