

those half-breed settlers, both young and old, to the lands drawn for. The hay claim would also be proceed with as rapidly as the plans could be prepared, which are required to furnish the descriptions for the patents. Though the legislation of this session did not deal with all these questions, still the powers the Government had taken with respect to conflicting claims of settlers with each other, would also be proceeded with and the same might be said with regard to the other claims. Although the member for Lisgar was absent he (Mr. LAIRD) wished to refer to the charge made by that hon. gentleman that the Government had favored the Hudson's Bay Company in issuing patents to them while the same privilege had not been extended to settlers on the settlement belt. He (Mr. LAIRD) had made strict inquiry in the department and found that since the present Government had come into power, not a single patent had been issued to the Hudson's Bay Company for lands of any kind whatever.

PACIFIC RAILWAY TERMINUS.

Mr. WRIGHT (Pontiac) inquired from the Hon. Minister of Public Works whether any information had been received from the engineers sent to examine as to the practicability of the Northern Colonization Railway crossing from Portage du Fort to a point somewhere in the vicinity of the village of Douglas. He believed that explorations had been going forward for some time, and it was rumored that a report had been made to the Government in regard thereto. His excuse for asking the question was that the subject was one of special importance to the people of the county which he represented, and that he was intimately connected with that railway. He had been also given to understand—at all events it was so rumored on the streets—that the terminus of the subsidized portion of the Georgian Bay Branch had been located in the village of Douglas. He had entertained the hope, as did the people of the county of Pontiac, and of the North Riding of Renfrew, that in consideration of the important position of Pembroke, that town would have been selected for the terminus, or if not selected, an instrumental survey would have been ordered before any other place had been chosen for the Eastern terminus of the Georgian Bay Branch. The town of Pembroke

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie.

possessed many advantages as the terminus. It was at the head of navigation, the principle distributing point for lumber supplies for the Upper Ottawa region, and the point at which both the railroads and steamboats of Ontario and Quebec could meet with equal facility, and the point which would be acceptable to the extreme western men of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE called the hon. member to order. It was impossible that there could be a discussion on this question. The question was whether information of a certain kind had been received from the engineers. Though not bound to answer that question, he (Mr. MACKENZIE) could tell the hon. gentleman that he had not received such information and no portion of the road had yet been located that he was aware of.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER.—Have the Government taken any measures, and if so, what measures to secure a connection between the Canada Central Railway, at the point where it now terminates, and Douglas, the point to which the Government are authorized by Parliament to grant a subsidy for the extension to Lake Burnt?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.—I am afraid the hon. member will have to give the two day's notice of his question. However, I will tell him we have taken no steps of any sort about it, good, bad, or indifferent, but what Parliament is aware of.

At three o'clock the Usher of the Black Rod appeared with a message from His EXCELLENCY, summoning the members of the House of Commons to the bar of the Senate.

The House of Commons being in attendance, the following Bills were assented to in HER MAJESTY'S name by His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR GENERAL, viz:—

An Act to amend "*The Interpretation Act*" as respects the printing and distribution of the Statutes, and territorial application of Acts amending previous Acts.

An Act to repeal certain provisions of an Act of the Legislature of Nova Scotia respecting petty offences, trespasses and assaults.

An Act to amend the Act providing for the organization of the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada.