

IMPROVEMENTS ON WHITE MUD RIVER, MANITOBA.

Mr. TROW, in the absence of Mr. WATSON, asked, Is it the intention of the Government to continue the improvements on White Mud River and Lake Manitoba during the coming season?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The dredge which was purchased by the Department has been placed at Westbourne, on White Mud River, and is available for the work, should such be ordered. The order has not yet been given.

THE JUDGE OF EAST ASSINIBOIA.

Mr. PERLEY (Assiniboia) asked, For what reasons the residence of the Judge of East Assiniboia has been removed from the centre of the district at Whitewood, to the western boundary of Manitoba?

Mr. THOMPSON. The residence of the Judge was not removed, but before the Judge had time to take up his residence at Whitewood, in accordance with the Order in Council fixing that as the residence, it was ascertained that by his residing at Moosomin a larger number of people in the judicial district would be served than by his living at Whitewood; for that reason the place of residence was changed.

FRAUDS ON THE CUSTOMS.

Mr. GUAY asked, Whether the Government are aware that the Customs officers have found, in a manufactory near Quebec, whiskey put up in casks marked as containing vinegar, and ready for delivery to the trade; that the said whiskey had been passed free of duty, under pretence that it was to be used for the making of vinegar? How long has this fraudulent system been carried on with the knowledge of the officials? What steps do the Government intend to take in the matter?

Mr. COSTIGAN. The Government is aware that a quantity of whiskey in barrels, marked as vinegar, was found in a factory near Quebec. The next portion of the question, asking how long this fraudulent system has been carried on with the knowledge of the officials, is an improper question, to which, as it implies guilty knowledge on the part of the officials, I would not be obliged to answer. But, for the information of the hon. gentleman, I may say that two of the present officers in the service have been looking into this matter, and after full enquiry they exonerate the officers there from any knowledge of or participation in this fraud. With regard to the steps the Government have taken in the matter, of course the quantity of liquor found has been seized, and another quantity that was supposed to come from there has been seized in Montreal, and the plant in connection with the manufacture is also under seizure; and the Government will take such further steps for the protection of the revenue as may be indicated by the Act.

FORTIFICATIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE asked, Has the Government received a copy of the report of Colonel O'Brien, of the Royal Engineers, on the fortifications of British Columbia? If so, will it be laid on the Table of the House at an early date?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The Department of Militia and Defence has not yet received a copy of the report of Colonel O'Brien on the defences of British Columbia.

Mr. CARLING.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked, What is the sum charged to capital account of the Intercolonial Railway up to date of 20th April, 1887?

Mr. POPE. \$44,197,451. Of the above, \$11,171,894 was expended prior to 30th June, 1887.

EXPLORATION OF THE YUKON RIVER REGION.

Mr. GORDON asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to despatch an exploring expedition up the Yukon River this season; if so, whether any practical gold miners will be selected to accompany the expedition, with a view of testing the value of the auriferous deposit in the regions to be explored?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). The Government have despatched an expedition for the exploration of the Yukon River country. The chief of the expedition is Dr. George Dawson, Assistant Director of the Geological Survey, than whom no one in America is more competent to test the value of auriferous deposits.

DEEP SEA FISHERIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. GORDON asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to continue, this year, the exploration of the deep sea fisheries on the coast of British Columbia?

Mr. FOSTER. It is the intention of the Government, this year, to renew the exploration of the deep sea fisheries on the coast of British Columbia.

TELEGRAPH SIGNAL SERVICE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. GORDON asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to extend the telegraph signal service to Johnstone Straits, Alberni, Cape Real and Port San Juan? If so, when?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

LIGHTING THE STRAITS OF JUAN DE FUCA.

Mr. GORDON asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to build a lighthouse at the entrance to the Straits of Juan de Fuca, either at Bouilla Point or Port San Juan? If so, when?

Mr. FOSTER. The matter is at present under the consideration of the Government.

HARBOR OF REFUGE AT PORT SAN JUAN.

Mr. GORDON asked, Whether the Government have considered the necessity of constructing a harbor of refuge at Port San Juan, for the safety of sealers, tug boats and other vessels and steamers engaged in the commerce of the Dominion on the Pacific coast?

Mr. FOSTER. This matter is also under the consideration of the Government.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND MONTREAL COTTON COMPANY.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant) asked, Has there been any dispute between the Department of Customs and the manager of the Montreal Cotton Company with regard to duties on goods imported by said company?

Mr. BOWELL. I scarcely understand what the hon. gentleman means by the word "dispute." There has been