

RETURNS.

sires if the Government refuse to bring down papers which they are obliged to bring down by the order of the House. It may be that the motion was allowed to pass last session under a misapprehension of the facts. The Minister who allowed the address to pass may have imagined that an appointment had actually taken place, and may have allowed that phrase of the resolution to pass the House; but on investigation he may have found that no appointment had taken place, and therefore the whole groundwork of the resolution may have been swept away. I do not know that that is the case, but this may possibly be the fact.

HON. MR. SMITH—I may say to the hon. gentleman from Halifax that those who represented the Government last session allowed the motion to pass not being aware but there might be some papers before the Council, and I made no opposition to the motion; but on inquiry I was led to understand that there were no such papers, and no information could be given. I was willing that the papers should be brought down if any existed. I think that is the answer to the hon. gentleman's question, and it is the reason why no opposition was given to the motion when it was proposed.

The matter then dropped.

The Senate adjourned at 3:50 until Wednesday, the 11th May, at 8 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Wednesday, May 11th, 1887.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 8 o'clock.

Prayers and Routine Proceedings.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Bill (D) "An Act to incorporate the Teeswater and Inverhuron Railway Co." (Mr. McKindsey.)

HON. MR. SMITH—I have the honor to lay on the Table an answer to an inquiry made on the 18th of April, by the hon. member from Halifax on the subject of delayed trains on the Intercolonial Railway.

HON. MR. ALMON—May I ask if that is an answer to my question?

HON. MR. SMITH—Yes.

HON. MR. ALMON—I hope that the answer itself is satisfactory, because there is no doubt the road was in a perfect condition on the occasion to which my inquiry referred, and we were unnecessarily delayed several hours when on our way to the Capital on very important business. When the Short Line road (which some of our people, who are members of the Chamber of Commerce, are mad enough to think will benefit Halifax) is constructed and has taken the trade which ought to go to Halifax to St. John N. B., some of us, who do not belong to the Chamber of Commerce are very much afraid that the traffic on the Intercolonial Railway will be neglected. Therefore we view with a great deal of dissatisfaction these delays on that important road. It may seem a small question, but it is one well worthy of attention because anything that makes travelling pleasant leads passengers, especially tourists in the summer season, to take that route. I trust that this answer satisfactorily explains the delay.

HON. MR. SMITH—All I can say is that I shall take much pleasure in drawing the attention of the Minister of Railways to the subject.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I should like to know what has become of a return which I moved for last Session with reference to the penitentiaries of Quebec? There were eight or nine addresses moved and concurred in by the House with the approval of the Government. I see that other reports, some of them moved for this Session, have been laid on the table, while the return I moved for thirteen months ago has not yet been brought down.