

mittee of this House, and it would be taking an exceedingly extreme course if we refused to allow the matter to be discussed before the proper committee. I have no doubt allegations will be made on the one hand against the Bill and controverted on the other, and this House will not be in a position to deal on sound principles or in a correct way with this Bill on the motion for its second reading, in view of the contradiction that will arise on both sides until the discussion has taken place. It seems to me that the Railway Committee is the proper tribunal before which this hearing should take place, I did not think, and I am of that opinion now, that it would be at all proper, in view of any discussion which could take place here, to refuse the second reading of the Bill. There is nothing in the Bill, on the face of it, so unsound in principle but that on being amended or considered fully by the committee, it might possibly be permitted to pass; but that is all a fair matter for consideration by the committee. I would suggest to my hon. friend now whether it would be desirable for him to press this motion, seeing that if this course were taken it would not be in the interest of the Bill, because my own view at present is against the Bill, but it would enable the parties to obtain a fair hearing before the usual committee which deals with this subject. I would assure the hon. gentleman that there is not the slightest disposition to hasten legislation. I may be found as strongly opposed as is the hon. gentleman to the Bill, for I have no preconceived views in regard to it, but after the Bill has been considered by the committee and we have arrived at the facts, I will be in a position to advise the House as to whether it should be proceeded with further or not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The danger in that proposition simply is whether the Bill could be taken up to-morrow by the committee or not. My hon. friend will see that it is largely a question of notice. I am informed on very good authority, by the solicitor, that there was a notice for hearing to-morrow actually on the paper of the Railway Committee before this Bill received its second reading. It would meet the case if the Bill were not taken up until regular notices had been given, that is to say, the regular notices as to the second reading of the Bill and its references to the committee.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It was quite impossible that this notice could have been given at a time indicated, because there was no reference to this special Bill but there was the general call of the committee. If the Bill goes before the committee, I shall be as ready as my hon. friend to insist that it be not taken up until the parties interested have had the fullest opportunity of being heard.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would ask the leader of the House, under these circumstances, to withdraw the motion.

Motion withdrawn.

## PLACER MINING IN YUKON TERRITORY.

Mr. MONK asked,

1. Are all claims entered for placer mining in the Yukon Territory reported to the Department of the Interior?
2. How many claims have been reported as entered to date?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Owing to the slowness of communication between the Yukon and Ottawa, it is exceedingly likely that a large number of claims have been entered before the Gold Commissioner recently. Up to and including 30th March, 1898, 9,777 claims had been entered.

## POSTMASTERS IN PROVENCHER, MANITOBA.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked,

1. Who were appointed postmasters in the electoral district of Provencher since the 1st of July, 1896, and what are the names of their respective post offices?
2. Why are not the new appointments recorded in the "Official Postal Guide" of January, 1898?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The following postmasters have been appointed in the electoral division of Provencher since the 1st of July, 1896:—

Name and Post Office.	Date of Appointment.
Ernest Savard, La Broquerie....	4th Feb., 1898
D. H. McLean, Emerson.....	30th June, 1897
Noé A. Dumaine, Isle des Chènes	3rd Dec., 1897
H. L. Fast, Kleefeld.....	3rd Dec., 1897
Rodolphe Coté, LaRochelle.....	30th Mar., 1898
Jos. A. Houle, Letellier.....	9th Feb., 1898
Joseph Richard, Loretto.....	7th Oct., 1897
Thos. S. Wilson, Rosewood.....	15th Jan., 1898
J. N. Camyre, St. Adolphe.....	30th Mar., 1898
Alfred Leveque, St. Boniface....	15th Jan., 1897
Louis Berard, St. Joseph.....	17th Sept., 1897
Johann Braun, Grunthal (new office)	1st Feb., 1898

2. All of the above appointments made previous to 1st of January, 1898, (the date of sending the Guide to press) appear in the Official Postal Guide of January, 1898.

## RATES ON GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH LINES.

Mr. BETHUNE asked,

1. How many miles of Government telegraph lines are there in the county of Victoria, Nova Scotia?
2. How many in Inverness County?
3. What are the through and local rates in each of these counties?