

LAND DAMAGES AT BELCÉIL.

Mr. MONK asked,

1. Have land owners at Belc eil asked the Government for an indemnity on account of the dredging done by the Government on Belc eil shore for the purpose of building a wharf?
2. What are the names of the claimants?
3. What amounts have been claimed from the Government?
4. Has the Government paid, or agreed to pay, anything to these claimants?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Yes. 2. Tancrede Bienvenu and Cyrille Choquette. 3. T. Bienvenu \$1,675, and C. Choquette \$2,700. 4. No, not yet.

CARETAKER OF BOOMS AT BELC IL.

Mr. MONK asked,

1. Has Bienvenu, caretaker of Government booms at Belc eil, resigned?
2. Who has been appointed in his place?
3. What salary is paid to the new caretaker?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Yes. 2. Mr. Cyrille Choquette. 3. Mr. Choquette is being paid the same salary as that his predecessor received, viz. : \$100 per annum.

MINERS' LICENSES—ASHCROFT STATION, B.C.

Mr. PRIOR asked,

1. Who is authorized to issue Yukon miners' licenses at Ashcroft Station, British Columbia, and by whom was he recommended for the position?
2. Is he paid any salary or commission for issuing same?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). There is no person at Ashcroft Station authorized to issue Yukon miners' licenses. The sub-collector of customs at Ashcroft is authorized to issue such licenses. He was so authorized, not on the recommendation of any one, but in accordance with the rule adopted by the Department of the Interior to have sub-collectors of customs act as issuers of miners' certificates at points at which the department has no agents. He is not paid any salary or commission for issuing same.

QUEEN VICTORIA PARK, NIAGARA FALLS.

Mr. McCLEARY asked,

1. Has the Government arrived at a decision, as to complying with the petition of the municipal and county councils of the county of Welland, who have asked that the Government land surrounding and in which are the ruins of Old Fort Erie, be given to and placed under the control of the commissioners of Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park?
2. Is the Government aware that the commissioners of the park made a report to the Ontario Government on this matter?

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

3. Has there been any communication between this Government and the Government of Ontario in relation to this?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The Government has decided (the municipality consenting) to cancel the lease to the corporation of Fort Erie of the lands surrounding the ruins of the old fort (17½ acres) and issue a new one in favour of the commissioners of the Niagara Falls Park. This decision was conveyed to the reeve of the municipality on the 20th January, 1897. 2. The Government has been informed that the Park Commissioners made a report to the Ontario Government. 3. There has been no communication between this Government and the Government of Ontario in the matter.

THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the hon. gentleman who is leading the House, as I think it would be a great convenience to members on both sides to know, what is proposed in regard to the Easter holidays—when the adjournment will take place and for what period?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). In a matter of that kind it would be our desire to consult the convenience of the House on both sides. The adjournment, I think, speaking from recollection, has usually taken place on Wednesday night, and I suppose it will be until Tuesday at three o'clock.

Mr. BERGERON. It used to be till eight o'clock.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Tuesday is a Government day, and we might as well meet at three. However, I will let the hon. gentleman know tomorrow.

THE INSOLVENCY BILL.

Mr. MACLEAN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, will the hon. gentleman who is leading the House tell the country whether the Government intend to go on with the Insolvency Bill or not?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. That is not under the charge of the Government, I may inform the hon. gentleman.

DATE OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose it may be assumed that, if nothing turns up to the contrary, the House will adjourn on Wednesday night. Under that assumption, does the hon. Finance Minister still think it best to go on with the Budget on Tuesday?