

Mr. EMMERSON. I do not want to get back to the time of Noah, but suppose we make the date the first of July, 1879.

Mr. FOSTER. Very well.

Motion as amended, agreed to.

#### MOTIONS AGREED TO WITHOUT DISCUSSION.

A return showing in detail the various amounts expended since two years upon the wharf and abutments situated at Isle Bizard, in Jacques Cartier county, Quebec.—Mr. Monk—by Mr. Barker.

Copies of all correspondence, documents, papers, and reports, not already brought down, relating to the harbour of Port Colborne, the breakwater thereof, and elevators, or proposed elevators therein.—Mr. Barker.

Copies of all petitions, memorials, and resolutions from the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, the executive of that province, and any correspondence relative to the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba to the west or north.—Mr. W. S. McCarthy.

Return showing the number and location, cost and earnings, of the cold storage establishments called 'bait freezers,' of maritime Canada; together with the returns, duly certified, of all such institutions, since 1900; the names and the salaries of all superintendents, officials and keepers of same; and the amounts in pounds of the different kinds of fish therein stored; the amount of bait from them used by bona fide fishermen, and the names of the same; together with all such information as may permit of the thorough examination of the question of government assisted refrigerators.—Mr. A. Martin—by Mr. A. A. McLean.

Return showing the names of residents in the Northwest Territories not entitled to a second homestead, for whom the sanction of the department has been given, allowing them to purchase additional quarter sections, subject to ordinary cultivation conditions; the dates upon which such sanctions were given; the lands which have been purchased by such settlers in consequence of this authority, with the price agreed upon, and the sum paid down; also the form in which the authority to make the sale was made known to the local agents of Dominion lands.—Mr. Lake.

Return of the 'statement of the case' in the 'Canada-Cape Breton' accident, as served by Captain Reid, of Montreal, upon witnesses whose certificate or license was liable to be dealt with in connection with the investigation regarding said casualty.—Mr. Ames—by Mr. Perley.

#### RURAL MAIL DELIVERY.

Mr. HAUGHTON LENNOX (South Simcoe) moved for:

Copies of all reports, returns, estimates, correspondence, writings, records, documents, memoranda, or written or printed information of any kind in the possession or control of the Post Office Department, in reference to the question of establishing rural mail delivery in

Mr. FOSTER.

Canada, or the manner of establishing or conducting such service, and the probable cost; including any information in the possession of the department as to the working of the United States system, or such a service or system elsewhere, and the annual expense and other particulars.

He said: As the subject of this motion has been engaging a good deal of attention from the people of the rural districts of Canada, I gave notice to the Postmaster General that I would discuss it to-day. We have had this matter referred to on several occasions, and some of us have been watching, as I believe the Postmaster General has been, the progress of this question in the United States. I do not know that the Postmaster General has given any very full statement in regard to it, except upon one occasion last year, although I may not be correct as to this. I am referring to a discussion which took place on the 28th of June last, when the matter was brought up by the hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Armstrong) who referred to the system as being wonderfully successful in the United States. The Postmaster General joined issue upon that statement. Whether or not it has been successful in the United States is important to consider in connection with the agitation now taking place in Canada. I am not, and probably no hon. member would be disposed, to commit himself to the proposition that the time has come when we should have rural mail delivery in Canada; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there is considerable feeling throughout the country that this matter should at all events receive the earnest consideration of members of both sides of the House as one affecting a very large and important class of the people of Canada. I believe I shall have the sympathy of both sides of the House in saying that anything that we can do at a reasonable expense to bring more of the conveniences of city life within the reach of the people of the country ought to be cheerfully borne by the finances of the country in general; and in bringing this matter before the House, I do not wish to be understood as pursuing any line of attack on the Postmaster General, more than this, that I have formed the opinion, whether rightly or wrongly, that the hon. minister is under some misapprehension as to the true condition of this matter in the United States. I judge from the statement the hon. gentleman has made. Even if there is some ground for believing that the Postmaster General is justified in the gloomy view he takes of this matter as a result of looking at what has taken place in the United States, yet the request of perhaps a large section of the rural constituents of Canada should be taken into consideration, namely, that an experiment should be conducted in a small section, a township or a county, so that we