

what I proposed in a Bill I introduced last session, but which never got beyond the second reading owing to the session closing. I propose to enact what is commonly known as the compulsory voting clause. Bills to this effect have been introduced before and referred to select committees and been recommended by select committees, but failed to pass the House. The first clause deals with compulsory voting. The second clause is consequent on the first. It enacts that the day set apart for the general election throughout Canada shall be a public holiday, so as to give no excuse to any one for not voting. Clause three proposes to repeal all the clauses of the Election Act which require any deposit to be made by a candidate for election to the Dominion House.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### QUESTIONS.

#### PAYMENTS TO NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. FOSTER asked:

1. What sums of money have been paid for advertising and printing, respectively, to the 'Sun' and 'Star' newspapers of St. John, N.B., the 'Chronicle' of Halifax, the 'Echo' and the 'Glace Bay Gazette', and the St. John 'Globe,' during the following periods, respectively: the fiscal years 1904-5, 1905-6, and from June 30, 1906, to date?

2. Is the printing so far as concerns the 'Sun', 'Star,' 'Chronicle' and 'Echo,' done in the job offices of these papers, or is it farmed out by these papers to other concerns?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). It would not be convenient to give the information in the form of an answer. I would suggest to let that question stand as a notice of motion.

Mr. SPEAKER. It stands as a notice of motion.

#### THE BOYLE CONCESSION.

Mr. AMES asked:

Has the Dawson Legislature memorialized the government of Canada regarding what is known as the Boyle concession? If so, what action has been taken in regard to the same?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior). We have no notice of the receipt of any such memorial, but have wired to the commissioner at Dawson to ask if any such has been forwarded.

#### NATIONAL TRANSCONTINENTAL— ENGINEERING STAFF.

Mr. A. C. MACDONELL asked:

What changes, if any, have been made in the National Transcontinental Railway Commission's engineering staff during the current calendar year?

Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways and Canals). That information is

being prepared by the commission, and I shall have it in a day or two.

Mr. SPEAKER. Stand.

#### RELEASE OF GILLIS.

Mr. WARD—by Mr. Taylor—asked:

1. Was a man named Gillis sentenced to be hanged some years ago at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, for the murder of one 'Callahan'?

2. Was this prisoner's sentence commuted to imprisonment for life? If so, on what grounds?

3. Was this prisoner removed from Dorchester to Kingston penitentiary? If so, for what reason?

4. When did this removal take place, and how long has the prisoner been confined at Kingston?

5. Has this prisoner been released? If so, when and upon what grounds?

6. From what source did the request for his release come?

7. Upon whose recommendation was this prisoner released?

Hon. A. B. AYLESWORTH (Minister of Justice):

1. Yes; in January, 1886.

2. The prisoner's sentence was so commuted. As to the grounds upon which such commutation proceeded, I am quite unable to answer, but the well established constitutional practice in that regard is that in general, the advice tendered to the Governor General in such cases is regarded as confidential, and not to be communicated even to parliament unless under very exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances would not appear to exist in the present case.

3. Yes; for disciplinary reasons.

4. In August, 1894. He was in Kingston penitentiary until his release in July, 1907, after (in all) over twenty-two years actual imprisonment.

5. He was released. The reply to question 2 applies to the latter part of this question.

6. From several persons interested in the prisoner who, from time to time during several years, urged his release. It is not the practice to communicate the names of memorialists or petitioners in such cases.

7. Upon mine.

#### MARINE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT BOOKKEEPING SYSTEM.

Mr. FOSTER asked:

1. What amount of money has been paid to the experts employed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to reorganize the system of keeping accounts for the department?

2. What are the names of these experts, their place of residence, and the sum paid to each?

3. Is their work completed?

Hon. L. P. BRODEUR (Minister of Marine and Fisheries):

1. \$35,499.56.