

REPORTS.

Tables of the Trade and Navigation of the Dominion of Canada, for the fiscal year ended the 30th June, 1891.—(Mr. Bowell.)

The Public Accounts of Canada, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1891.—(Mr. Foster.)

JUDGES ACTING ON COMMISSIONS.

Mr. VAILLANCOURT (for Mr. DELISLE) asked, Have the Government been informed that in the Province of Quebec, Judges Baby, Davidson, Jetté, Mathieu and Pagnuelo have set aside their judicial duties in order to undertake political inquiries? If so, what course do the Government intend to take in the matter?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The Government are aware that the judges named in the question asked by the hon. member were appointed to be members of a Royal Commission for making inquiries into matters of great public importance. Two of them being judges of the Court of Queen's Bench of the Province of Quebec were replaced for a short time by assistant judges. I understand that all of them were available for duty in case of necessity during the performance of these duties. The Government do not consider that it is necessary for them to take any action in the matter.

POST OFFICE AT ST. RAYMOND.

Mr. VAILLANCOURT (for Mr. DELISLE) asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to build a post office in the parish of St. Raymond, in the County of Portneuf?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. That is a question that can hardly be answered until the Estimates are brought down, inasmuch as no appropriation at present exists for that service.

PRIVILEGE—THE LONDON ELECTION.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I desire to put a motion to the House of which I have not given notice, because, although it may not be a matter of urgency, I think that it is a matter of privilege. I beg to move:

That an Order of the House be issued, directing the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to lay on the Table of the House the original list of voters received from the revising officer of the City of London, also the list as printed and upon which the recent election in that city was held.

I make this motion because I understand that a large number of the names on the list that was sent in by the revising officer to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, were struck off, and that the list as printed and forwarded by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, shows that a large number of names were struck off, but that it has been printed with those names on. If that be so—and I am informed by a gentleman who has personally inspected the list that it is so—I think it is a matter requiring the serious consideration of the House. Therefore, with the consent of the House, and without further notice, because it is a matter affecting the constitution of the House itself, I beg to make the motion that I have just read.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I think the hon. gentleman has not only failed to show it to be a case of privilege, but he has not shown that there

is any urgency in the matter. If that could be shown I do not think that any one would be disposed to stand upon a mere question of whether it was a matter of privilege or not. Under the circumstances, I think the hon. gentleman had better put a notice of motion on the Orders of the Day. I may say this is the first I have heard of what the hon. gentleman has stated.

Mr. LAURIER. I take it that this is a matter of privilege, this is a matter which directly affects the mode in which members of this House are elected. If that be so, Mr. Speaker, the motion of my hon. friend requires no notice. Of course, if the hon. gentleman takes this ground I take issue with him. But if he thinks that, as a matter of courtesy, notice should be given before he is prepared to give an answer, I would suggest to my hon. friend to let his motion stand till the day after to-morrow.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I must adhere to that ground. In any case, I think it would be better that we should have an opportunity of enquiring into the facts stated for the first time this afternoon. The hon. gentleman might renew his motion on Thursday without prejudice to our right to object to it.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I may say, in reply to the Minister of Justice, that I think this is a matter seriously affecting the constitution of Parliament. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is an officer of Parliament, and he has certain duties to discharge. If the facts are as I have stated, and I have no doubt that my information is strictly accurate, they are of great importance. I am informed that the list of voters as forwarded for the City of London, will show a large number of voters struck off which were included upon the list as printed, and so I ask that the original list may be laid upon the Table of the House, and that the printed list upon which the election was held may also be laid on the Table of the House. This will facilitate business, because I purpose to invite the consideration of the House to further matters connected with this election, which are of a very serious character and which, it seems to me, affect the liberties of the people. It would facilitate the business of the House very greatly if this motion were granted, and this list was laid upon the Table at the earliest possible date. The Minister of Justice is opposed to that, he does not deny that it is a matter of privilege, he simply denies that it is a question of urgency. Surely it is a matter of some urgency, at all events, if an irregularity has occurred. If the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery has not properly discharged his duty, if he has sent a list to the printers in one form while it was received by him in another, I think the sooner the House takes cognizance of that fact, the better. It seems to me that a matter of that sort is always, not only a matter of privilege, but also in some degree a matter of urgency.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. Although it may seem a small matter and one of form only, I think the motion should read that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, who is an officer of the House, should attend at the Table and bring with him these lists. These papers are supposed to be now in the custody of an officer of the House; and I think the motion should read that this officer should be ordered to