

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. By the unanimous consent of the House and for the purpose of forwarding the business, I shall have no objection to do that. Of course, any one hon. member can object.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Certainly.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I see all the private Bills are railway Bills. Perhaps the leader of the Opposition would allow them to be passed, and to go before the Railway Committee. They will require to be posted up for eight days.

Mr. BLAKE. The difficulty is that, if these Bills are to take the second reading without being printed, it is a pure formality. We have not the slightest opportunity of forming a judgment upon them, and it does not appear that we are at a stage of the Session where there is any great necessity for such a course.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Then we will take the questions by members, and then the unopposed motions, and then go on with the debate.

SUBWAY TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. WELSH asked, Is it the intention of the Government to construct a subway from Prince Edward Island to the mainland, in order to secure fulfilment of the terms of union between Canada and the Island of Prince Edward?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I must ask the hon. gentleman to let that question stand, as I have not my papers here. I will point out, however, that the hon. gentleman must strike out all after the word "mainland."

WHARF AT KAMOURASKA.

Mr. DESSAINT asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to proceed this year with the works already commenced for the building of a wharf at Kamouraska?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. No decision has yet been taken on this question.

PUBLIC BUILDING AT KENTVILLE, N.S.

Mr. BORDEN asked, What steps have been taken toward the construction of a public building at Kentville, Nova Scotia, for which Parliament voted the sum of four thousand dollars last Session? If nothing has yet been done, what is the intention of the Government regarding the matter?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. An officer was sent down there to look at certain sites that were pointed out as likely to be proper ones. The officer came back, and afterwards a representation was made by a number of residents in favor of another lot, but negotiations have not yet been completed on the subject.

HOOP NETS ON THE RIVER ST. LAWRENCE.

Mr. TAYLOR asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to change the present fishery regulations so as to allow hoop nets to be used in the River St. Lawrence from the foot of Wolf and Howe Islands to Montreal for the capture of sturgeon, catfish, dogfish, bull-heads, eels, &c., between the 1st of September and the 1st of June in each year?

Mr. FOSTER. A numerously-signed petition has been presented asking for the change referred to, and it is at present engaging the attention of the Government?

SUBSTITUTES FOR BUTTER.

Mr. BAIN, in the absence of Mr. FISHER, asked, Whether any oleomargarine, butterine, or other substitute for butter

prohibited by the Act 49 Vic., chap. 42, has been seized or confiscated, and whether any person has been prosecuted or punished under that Act?

Mr. BOWELL. No seizures of butterine or oleomargarine having been made by the Department, no one could have been prosecuted or punished under that Act?

STATION-HOUSE BETWEEN ST. CHARLES AND ST. JOSEPH DE LÉVIS.

Mr. GUAY asked, Whether tenders were called for the building of the station-house on the Branch Railway from St. Charles to St. Joseph de Lévis? If so, what were the names of the parties who tendered and the amounts of the several tenders? To whom was the contract for the building of the said station house awarded?

Mr. POPE. Tenders were called for. The names of the tenderers were: E. T. Nesbit, Quebec; D. Roy & Frère, Lévis; and Philibert Ouellette, Lévis. The amount of the tenders were: \$1,473, \$1,375, and \$1,260. The contract was awarded to Philibert Ouellette, Lévis, at \$1,260.

FLOODS AT MONTREAL AND ITS VICINITY.

Mr. BEAUSOLEIL asked, Whether the Government have received one of the Reports of the Commission of Engineers appointed to enquire as to the periodical floods at Montreal and its vicinity? Were the Commissioners instructed to extend their enquiries to other localities which suffer in like manner from such floods, such as the town and parish of Berthier, St. Bartholomy, Laprairie, St. Lambert, Longueuil, Boucherville, &c.? If the Government have received the said report, when will the same be laid before this House? If not as yet received, is it the intention of the Government to order a report to be made of operations up to date, and to submit the same to this House?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. A report dated the 31st of July, 1886, was received from the Commissioners appointed to enquire as to the cause of the floods at Montreal, concerning the building of a pier for the protection of the district lying south of the Lachine canal, the cost to be \$120,000. On the 28th of October the Commissioners suggested to keep the River St. Lawrence free from ice from Sorel to Three Rivers by means of tug-boats specially adapted to such service, but the season being too far advanced it was impossible to attempt the experiment. The Commissioners are not limited in the extent of their powers.

BAGGAGE PASSING THROUGH THE CUSTOMS.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT, in the absence of Mr. MITCHELL, asked, Whether the Government have rescinded in whole or in part the Customs regulation recently issued in relation to the examination of the baggage of passengers coming into Canada? If so, to what extent?

Mr. BOWELL. The order referred to by the question has been withdrawn.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM IN MANITOBA.

Mr. TROW, in the absence of Mr. WATSON, asked, Is it the intention of the Government to establish and put into active operation an experimental farm, during this season, in the Province of Manitoba?

Mr. CARLING. The question of establishing an experimental farm in Manitoba is now under the consideration of the Government.