

The next clause provides that from and after the 1st January, 1895, no patents shall be issued to the homesteader except on the condition that should the land be suffered to remain two consecutive years without cultivation of at least fifteen acres, the homestead shall revert to the Government, and any homestead sold by the homesteader, or by anyone who has purchased from him, shall be sold subject to the same condition. There, again, I apprehend that in this House and out of it there may be some adverse criticism, but the object is one which has been pressed upon my attention by the farmers in the North-West, and it would effectually prevent homesteads being dealt with as a speculation. We have a large number of what are called buckboard farmers, men who fulfil the letter of the law without carrying out its spirit; and the moment they get their patent they allow weeds to grow on the fifteen acres they have cleared, and the shack they have built goes to ruin and decay. I know that I am, in some of these clauses, out of order; but I hope the Government will take them, and indeed the whole Bill, in hand. This would effectually prevent any person buying a homestead from a homesteader without intending to cultivate it.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

Mr. LAURIER. I do not know whether the attention of the Minister of Justice has been called to the provisions of this Bill, but I question whether it is in order.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I understand that part of it is in order and part is not.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 107) to incorporate the Burrard Inlet and Westminster Railway Company.—(Mr. Corbould.)

Bill (No. 109) to regulate private detective, financial and commercial agencies and corporations.—(Mr. Sproule.)

MARITIME PROVINCES—GEOLOGICAL MAPS.

Mr. FRASER asked, When do the Government intend to publish accurate geological maps of the Counties of Guysborough, Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester and Halifax? When published, what will be the size of each?

Mr. DEWDNEY. It would be impossible to state precisely the time when the geological maps referred to can be published. The survey in Nova Scotia is progressing satisfactorily in view of the small strength of the staff available for the work. When the surveys are completed they have to be plotted, reduced and drawn for the engraver, and are, when engraved, published in sheets of uniform size (12 by 18 inches) covering 3,456 square miles. The first sheet (Cape Canso) is already engraved, and will be published during the year.

EAST RIVER—DEEPENING.

Mr. FRASER asked, What amount do the Government propose expending this year in deepening the East River, Pictou, between New Glasgow and Pictou?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The distance from the harbour to the town of New Glasgow is six miles. To open a channel 120 feet wide over this distance, to a depth of 16 feet below low water, will cost \$208,923; for a depth of 18 feet, \$299,000; and for a depth of 21 feet, \$466,125. Therefore the Government do not intend expending money this year for this purpose.

NEW HARBOUR, &c., BREAKWATERS.

Mr. FRASER asked, Do the Government propose building breakwaters at New Harbour and Port Hillford, Guysborough County, this year?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. In 1874 an examination was made at New Harbour, Guysborough County, relative to the construction of a breakwater, the cost being placed at \$53,500. No action was taken. During 1884 the department was asked to ascertain if a small and comparatively inexpensive work could be built at New Harbour, for the benefit of the fishermen. The report furnished states that owing to its extremely exposed position and the want of any natural protection, it would not be possible to provide a comparatively inexpensive shelter for fishing boats or craft of any kind, and a breakwater near the head of the cove would have to be of considerable length, and to be constructed in a strong and massive manner to withstand the heavy seas and undertow from the Atlantic. Nothing is known in the department of any place in Guysborough County under the name of Port Hillford. The Government do not intend going on with the works this year.

RED RIVER SURVEYS.

Mr. ROSS (Lisgar) asked, Are the surveys on the Red River yet completed and reported upon? If so, what is the estimated cost of the necessary improvements on the said river for the purpose of navigation?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The surveys have been completed and reported on. The estimated cost of the works proposed is \$922,000.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH WASHINGTON.

On the Orders of the Day being called,

Mr. LAURIER. May I ask the Minister of Justice if he can give us a definite answer in reference to when the correspondence with Washington will be brought down?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I think that all the remaining papers which will be available this session will be laid on the Table on Monday.

ACCOMMODATION OF OFFICIAL REPORTERS.

Mr. BARRON. I desire to call the attention of the Minister of Public Works to a matter to which I drew his attention last session. If he could find it convenient to visit the room which is occupied by the *Hansard* reporters, he will find eighteen gentlemen working in a room 18 ft. by 25 ft. It is almost impossible for them to do their work or even to live in such quarters with comfort. The Minister promised last year to give this matter his attention, but nothing has been done in regard to it. I understand that, prior to the last Parliament, the *Hansard* reporters had a room above that in which they now are, but that the predecessor of

Mr. DAVIN.