

Mr. LaRIVIERE. This is to incorporate the Trappist Fathers, who have an establishment in Manitoba, and who intend to have other establishments in Manitoba and the Territories. Their object is to have model farms, and to teach agriculture and other pursuits in that line, and they only ask for powers to have a legal existence as a corporation.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

#### SASKATOON AND BATTLEFORD AND UNION LAKE MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan) asked :

Has the contract for carrying the mails between Saskatoon and Battleford and Union Lake been let? If so, what are the names of the contractors, and what is the contract price in each case?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). The contract for this service has not yet been let.

#### DOMINION EXHIBITION IN TORONTO.

Mr. WALLACE (for Mr. Clarke) asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to grant any financial aid to the Dominion Exhibition to be held in the city of Toronto during the months of August and September of the present year?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I have reason to believe that the promoters of the Dominion exhibition have been informed by the Minister of Agriculture that the Government does not see its way to give any financial aid to the Dominion exhibition this year.

#### JOSEPH MERCIER, OF STE. FAMILLE.

Mr. GILLIES (for Mr. Casgrain) asked :

1. Is one Joseph Mercier, of Ste. Famille, Island of Orleans, employed in any capacity by the Government?
2. If so, in what capacity?
3. What is his salary?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). It is impossible yet to give the answer. We shall have to look over all the departments. I would request that the question be allowed to stand till the next sitting.

#### JOHN IRVINE.

Mr. GILLIES (for Mr. Casgrain) asked :

1. Has one John Irvine been appointed keeper of the Red Island Lightship?
2. If so, is his appointment a permanent one?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). John Irvine has been placed in temporary charge of the lightship referred to.

#### MR. BAZINET, OF JOLIETTE.

Mr. GILLIES (for Sir Adolphe Caron) asked :

Are the Government aware that Mr. Bazinet, assistant collector of customs at Joliette, P.Q., has made in a Liberal convention the nomination of the Liberal candidate chosen to contest the election for that district in the Quebec Legislative Assembly? Are they also aware that the same Dominion official is making political speeches in every parish of the district in favour of the Liberal candidate?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). The Government have not been informed that Mr. Bazinet is taking any part in the elections now going on.

#### THE RATE OF DUTY ON COAL.

Mr. McDOUGALL asked :

1. What was the rate of duty on Scotch and English coal imported into Canada under the old tariff?
2. What is the rate under the new tariff for the first year?
3. What will the rate be after the first year under the new tariff?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). The rate of duty, as my hon. friend knows, was 60 cents a ton, and he knows the rate under the present tariff; but he knows also that the Finance Minister made the announcement a few days ago, when he delivered the Budget speech, that the whole question was under consideration, and that a further announcement would probably be made on the subject.

#### SASKATCHEWAN MAILS.

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan) asked :

What amount does the Regina, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway Company receive for carrying the mails to Saskatchewan, N.W.T.? How often are they supposed to deliver the mails at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan? What time of day is the mail supposed to be delivered in Prince Albert? Has the mail been delivered on time in the months of February and March, 1897?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). The Canadian Pacific Railway is paid \$2,053.38 for the conveyance of the mails over the Regina and Prince Albert Railway, and the service is semi-weekly. The trains are due to reach Prince Albert at 9.35 p.m., Tuesdays and Saturdays. The Department have no knowledge as to the degree of regularity of the service during February and March.

#### KINGSTON PENITENTIARY.—BINDER TWINE.

Mr. McDOUGALL (for Mr. McLennan, Glengarry) asked :

1. What was the cost of establishing the manufacture of binder twine in Kingston Penitentiary,