

stituency. Perhaps, between the time of concurrence and the next general elections, we shall have the matter explained. The closing of those offices has resulted in great inconvenience to the people.

Mr. LANGEVIN. If the hon. gentleman will give me a notice of his question, I will try to answer on the next opportunity.

Resolution ordered to be reported.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. When will the Supplementary Estimates for 1881-82 be brought down?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. On Monday, I think.

House adjourned at 2 o'clock, a.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 14th March, 1881.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that on this day, and on every Monday during the Session, Government business shall have precedence after Private Bills.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that Private Bills be placed on the Orders of the Day the same day as they are reported.

Motion agreed to.

### MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

Mr. CARON introduced a Bill further to amend the Acts therein mentioned respecting the Militia and Defence of the Dominion. He said: I may state that by the first clause of this Bill it is proposed to correct an error which exists in the French copy of the Act and which gives that copy a different sense from the English copy. I propose to add the words "*ou soldat*" in the 18th section, 31 Victoria, Chap. 40, after the words "*si c'est un sous officier.*" The second clause provides for extending to February, 1883, the time when the enrollment of the reserve militia shall take place, the date in the present Act being February, 1881.

Bill read the first time.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

The following Bills passed through Committee:—

Bill No. 79 to incorporate the Northern, North-Western and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company.—(Mr. McCarthy).

Bill No. 25 respecting the Ontario and Pacific Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. Williams).

### THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. LANDRY asked if the Government could, to-day, give the answer promised last Monday, seventh instant, with regard to the action it intends taking on the petitions that have been presented to it, asking for the building of a branch off the Intercolonial from St. Charles to St. Joseph de Lévis; and, whether it has the intention of building that branch this year; if not, what are the Government's intentions at that point?

Mr. LANGEVIN. In reply to the first part of the question, I have to say that the Government is ready with its Mr. Ross (Middlesex).

answer to-day. With regard to the second part of the question, as to whether the Government has the intention of building the St. Charles branch this year, I must answer in the negative. To the third part of the question, viz., what the Government's intentions are, I will answer that the Government has the intention of at once inviting tenders for a railway ferry between the terminus of the Intercolonial in Quebec South and a spot nearest the Occidental Railway on the Quebec side, so that the baggage cars may be transported from one side of the river to the other. That ferry will have to be built by the Intercolonial and Occidental, on joint expense—i.e., by the Federal Government and the Local Government. On the other hand, as the Government has not the intention of building the St. Charles Branch this year, in order that the trade of Quebec, which interests the hon. member when he puts that question, shall not suffer, the Government intends to regulate the charges on the Intercolonial between St. Charles and Quebec, by calculating the distance as if the St. Charles Branch was actually constructed.

### CANAL AT THE CEDARS

Mr. LANTIER enquired, Whether, in accordance with the promise made in the early part of the Session, the Engineer-in-Chief of Canals has examined the reports of explorations made for the construction of the projected canal at the Cedars; whether a report has been made, and the Government are prepared to give a decision?

Mr. POPE (Compton.) The Chief Engineer has been enquiring into the matter, but has not yet made his report.

### GOLD AND SILVER MINING IN KEEWAYDIN.

Mr. SCOTT enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to encourage gold and silver mining industry on Lake of the Woods in Keewaydin Territory, during the coming season, by making temporary arrangements for the issue of mining licenses until the question of disputed territory may be finally settled?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The subject is under consideration. I hope to give the hon. gentleman an answer in a day or two.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Why, it was done years ago.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Yes.

### THE MENNONITE RESERVE.

Mr. SCOTT enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to open the unsettled portion of the Mennonite Reserve, in the Province of Manitoba, for general settlement, particularly in the region known as the Pembina Mountain District?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The intention of the Government is, during the course of the present spring, or the coming summer, to offer these lands for sale at public competition.

### CANADA CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew) enquired, Is it the intention of the Government to place a postal car on the western extension of the Canada Central Railway; and if so, when?

Mr. LANGEVIN. It is not the intention of the Government to do so until the state of the railway business warrants it.

### INTERNATIONAL PARK AT NIAGARA.

Mr. HUNTINGTON enquired, Whether any negotiations are progressing regarding the proposed International Park at Niagara; and if so, what is the nature thereof?