

desire no better cement for the class of work referred to.

From Thomas Munro, Esq., engineer in charge Soulanges Canal :

25th March, 1879.

About one million bushels of Thorold hydraulic cement have been used in the construction of the canal works in my charge. This experience enables me to testify to the excellence of the article, especially when carefully burnt and thoroughly ground.

4. If the Thorold cement was used in building the above Government works, why is it not now used in building the "Soulanges" and "Trent Valley" Canals?

Mr. HAGGART. I cannot state the amount of Thorold cement used in building and enlarging the new Welland Canal, neither can I say what quantity was used in the Welland Aqueduct, but the quantity, I am aware, was very large. I am not aware of the letters referred to, but the officers of the department say that Messrs. Page, Munro and Thompson did give letters of certificate as to the quality of the Thorold cement. The Thorold cement was used in building the Welland Canal, but it is not found to be so reliable and suitable for submerged work as the Portland cement, and, for this reason, the use of the Portland cement has been generally, of later years, adopted on Government canal work. Both Mr. Thompson and Mr. Munro strongly favour its use, as well as the chief engineer.

#### AMENDMENTS TO REMEDIAL BILL.

Mr. BRUNEAU asked :

Whether it is the intention of the Government to accept, support and adopt the amendments to the Remedial Bill, of which the hon. member for Bagot has given notice? Do the Government intend to accept, support and adopt all the said amendments or a part thereof only? In the latter case, which of the said amendments do they intend to accept?

Mr. DICKEY. In reply to the hon. member, I beg to say that any proposed amendments will be taken into consideration when they are offered. The Government cannot give any further information now.

#### CLAIM OF E. ST. LOUIS.

Mr. McMULLEN asked :

Whether it is the intention of the Government to further resist the claim of E. St. Louis for labour supplied to the Curran Bridge? Do they intend to pay the judgment given by the Supreme Court? What is the amount of the judgment, and also the amount of the cost?

Mr. DICKEY. That question is before the officers of the Department of Justice to determine its legal aspects. When their report is received, the policy will be determined with regard to it.

Mr. McMULLEN. Can the hon. gentleman say the amount of the claim?

Mr. GIBSON.

Mr. DICKEY. Not definitely. It is in the neighbourhood of \$67,000.

#### FISHERMEN OF SKEENA RIVER.

Mr. CHARLTON asked :

1. Has the Minister of Marine and Fisheries received a petition from the fishermen of Skeena River, in the northern part of British Columbia, a large number of whom are Christian Indians; praying that the weekly close period for catching salmon, which now begins on Saturday at 6 a.m. and ends on Sunday at 6 p.m., shall hereafter begin on Saturday at noon and end on Sunday at midnight, thus enabling Christian Indians and others to observe the twenty-four hours of Sunday as a period of rest without reducing the number of hours in each week set apart as a close season?

2. Will the Government grant the reasonable and proper prayer of the said petitioners, and respect their conscientious scruples against working on Sunday, by making the required change, which will not reduce the number of hours of the close season, but merely readjust them to meet the desire of Christians by embracing the twenty-four hours of Sunday in the close season of thirty-six hours in each week?

Mr. COSTIGAN. 1. Several such petitions have been received. 2. Similar requests of this nature have been refused in respect of other rivers in British Columbia, on the grounds that the fish caught Saturday morning could not be canned the same day and the cannery cleaned, while keeping the fish over until Monday morning would involve their loss as they would spoil and would be wasted. But the department will make further inquiries into the matter with a view, if possible, to reaching some arrangement for meeting the wishes of the Indians.

#### SMELT FISHING.

Mr. DAVIES asked :

Has there been any extension of the close season with respect to the catching of smelts in the maritime provinces during the present winter? If so, when, and in what localities and provinces, and for what lengths of time have such extensions been made, and for what reason?

Mr. COSTIGAN. On representations from the different provinces in which smelt fishing is carried on, that the regulations acted unfairly in some localities, owing to differences in the dates at which the ice was sufficiently strong to permit of fishing, general instructions were issued to the fishery officers in Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to arrange that all parties should be allowed two and a half months' fishing. Thus, in localities where fishing began early, it would have to close early, and where it began late it would continue to a correspondingly later date.

#### IMPROVED RIFLE FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. McMULLEN (for Mr. Casey) asked :

1. Who has been entrusted with the choice of an improved rifle for the volunteers?