

this House who had the advantage of hearing the grand and beautiful speech which he delivered on the Manitoba school question will agree with me that his work on that question will be considered a sufficient monument to perpetuate his memory as a distinguished man. The death of Senator Bernier is a serious loss to his family, to the Senate and to the country, and I pray the family of him whom I had the honour of counting among the number of my intimate friends, to except this expression of my very warm and sincere sympathy.

The death of the late Senator Merner is also a great loss to the Senate. He was a man whose counsel was always appreciated, and who counted as many friends as there are Senators in this Chamber.

RATES OF INSURANCE ON THE ST LAWRENCE.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I may mention to my hon. friend opposite as it is a matter of considerable interest, that in regard to the question that was raised, I think, by the hon. gentleman from Hastings, about rates of insurance, I referred the matter to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and they have furnished me with a report which I lay on the table, in which, apparently—of course the House will understand I am just giving the report as received from them—the saving in insurance during the past eight years, from 1900 to 1908, amounts on hulls and exports only, making no reference to the saving on goods imported into the St. Lawrence, to a sum of \$6,121,759.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Can my hon. friend say what the percentage of reduction is?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—The chief reduction appears to be in the insurance on vessels, which is given there in detail. This reduction would appear to amount to something about 10 per cent. It used to be 5 per cent, and will be reduced to 4½, but my hon. friend can see the details in the paper. The question, he will remember had been brought up by the hon. gentleman who sits behind me in reference to a statement of mine, and I thought it was well the report of the Department of

Marine should be laid on the table accordingly.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—As my hon. friend has submitted some information relative to the discussion yesterday, perhaps he would be prepared to give us the result of an inquiry he promised that he would make into the question as to the security of the Grand Trunk Pacific with regard to the operation of the eastern division, in the right of forfeiture of the prairie section if they failed to operate?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I will have that looked into and will report, I was going to say at an early period, but judging from the resolution we passed today, I will say as soon as possible after we meet again.

THE STEAMER 'MONTCALM.'

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—Can the right hon. minister give us any information in regard to the steamer 'Montcalm'?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I applied to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in respect to that matter, but I regret I found that he was confined to his house through illness and I was unable to obtain a reply from him.

REPORT OF BOARD OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Might I ask my hon friend when we may expect the report of the Board of Railway Commissioners? The year expired on the 31st March last and we have no report.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—The report of the Transcontinental Railway Commissioners?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—No, of the Railway Commission for the year ending March 31, 1908.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I will make inquiry.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. GIBSON moved the adoption of the first report of the Committee of Selec-