

WHARFS AT PERIBONKA AND RIVIERE-A-LA-PIPE.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Is it true that P. Pednault, Thos. Tremblay and two others, day labourers, of the town of Chicoutimi, now are or have been employed since the 1st January, 1899, at the construction of the wharfs at Péribonka and Rivière-à-la-Pipe, in Lake St. John district ?

2. If so, what is the price per day paid to each of them, and how much are they paid for travelling expenses and board ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. The department has no means of ascertaining whether any of the men employed on these works come from Chicoutimi. The name of Thomas Tremblay appears for twenty-five days at Péribonka in March, 1899. 2. Twenty-five days at \$1.50 ; total, \$37.50—no board and no travelling expenses. The name of P. Pednault does not appear.

P. PEDNAULT, OF CHICOUTIMI.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Has Mr. P. Pednault, of Chicoutimi, been employed by the Government since June, 1896, at the construction of wharfs at Chicoutimi, or otherwise ?

2. If so, what amount of money has been paid to him since that date, and what for ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The vouchers in the department do not contain the name of P. Pednault in connection with construction of wharfs at Chicoutimi or otherwise.

NAVIGABILITY OF HUDSON STRAITS.

Mr. ROCHE asked :

1. What was the cost of the expedition sent by this Government to test the navigability of the Hudson Straits ?

2. What action does the Government propose to take on the strength of information obtained by the expedition ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. The cost was \$40,141.98. 2. No action is at present contemplated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS—MR. FRED PETERS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picou). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I regret to say I am obliged to trouble the House, but only for a moment, in regard

to a personal matter. I desire to call attention to a misrepresentation of myself and of a gentleman who happens to be connected with me in the profession of law, by a return laid on the Table of the House. I do not remember ever having occasion to refer to a newspaper article before, and the "Globe" correspondent, in regard to matters before the House, I can safely say, so far as I know, has been singularly fair in statements of fact. But, in connection with a return of correspondence about liquor permits with Mr. Frederick Peters, a return was brought down to this House in which, notwithstanding that the House ordered copies of all letters and all telegrams, there was, on the first page of the return, in regard to the most important document that had been discussed in debate, merely a memorandum saying "A private telegram in cipher had been received from Mr. Frederick Peters by Sir Louis Davies"—no date and no particulars—"the answer was as follows"—then follows a telegram without a date. Consequently, the "Globe" is able to infer :

A return placed on the Table of the House this afternoon shows some interesting correspondence that took place between Hon. F. Peters, of Victoria, who is Sir Hibbert Tupper's law partner, and the Federal Government. A private telegram in cipher from Mr. Peters solicited permission for a client to take in a quantity of whisky. To this despatch Sir Louis Davies, to whom it was addressed, answered—

Now, not so much in my own defence, but in justice to Mr. Peters, who happens to be, I suppose, as good a Liberal as there is on the Government side, I desire to say that that statement is false on the representation of Mr. Peters to me, to whom I have spoken on the matter. He could not honourably have had a client at that time. He was not then a partner of mine. I know no more of the matter than this—the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) sent to borrow my personal cipher with Mr. Peters, who, with me, was waiting for a call to the bar of British Columbia. I never was shown either by Mr. Peters or by the Minister a line of that cipher telegram. I never asked as to its contents and never knew as to its contents, whether it was a request for a permit or what it was. It was no more my business than it was the business of any hon. member in this House.