

Railway, two of which boilers were to be delivered on the 1st July, 1896, two on the 1st August, 1896, and two on 1st September, 1896, actually used in the construction of said boilers? If not, what change was made? When and by whom was such change authorized, and what allowance, if any, was made by reason of such change?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Mr. Davies). In the absence of my hon. colleague, the Minister of Railways and Canals. I beg to reply to the hon. gentleman as follows:—There are two contracts for locomotive boilers for the Intercolonial Railway. One for six boilers with Carrier, Lainé & Co., Lévis. Two to be delivered on July 1st, two on August 1st, and two on September 1st, 1896. None have yet been delivered and when the inspector visited the shops a week ago, work had not been commenced on them, and the material was not on hand. No change of material has been made, and no change has been authorized or any allowance made. The contract is with John McDougall & Co., Montreal, for six boilers. Two to be delivered on July 1st, two on August 1st, and two on October 1st, 1896. None of these have yet been delivered. The inspector was at the John McDougall's works on the 24th August instant, and reports one will be ready for delivery in about a month—the material specified in the contract was actually used in the construction of the boiler. No change of material has been made and no change has been authorized, or any allowance made to contractors.

#### CHIEF JUSTICE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. McINNES asked :

Whether the Government are aware that Hon. Theodore Davie, Chief Justice of British Columbia, was engaged in canvassing during the late election? If so, is it the intention of the Government to inquire into the matter?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). The Government is not aware that Mr. Justice Davie was engaged in canvassing during the late election. The facts have not been brought to the attention of the Government yet.

#### SENTENCE OF SHORTIS.

Mr. BERGERON asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to investigate the commutation of the sentence of Valentine Cuthbert Shortis to be hanged on the 3rd of January last, into imprisonment for life, as promised by the Minister of Public Works during his campaign in Beauharnois?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). This subject is now engaging the attention of the Government.

#### FREIGHT RATES IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Whether the First Minister was rightly reported by the Moose Jaw "Times" as having

Mr. LISTER.

said at Moose Jaw, on the 28th September, 1894 :

"I understand the freight rates you have to pay are outrageous. This condition must have a solution. I speak here as an honest man and any pledge I make to you will be carried out to the letter. There must be competition. There must be a solution for this unbearable condition, and I promise and pledge myself that at the proper time the solution and remedy shall be applied."

Does the hon. the First Minister intend to inaugurate legislation respecting freight rates?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). I may say I cannot answer for the language at this distant day, but the sentiments are sound, and it is very likely that I gave utterance to them. If I did I must have added—I am pretty sure I did add—that one of the causes of the present high rates of freight in the North-west Territories is the present tariff, which, instead of promoting trade, is contracting trade, and that the reform of the tariff by forcing an expansion of trade, would also force the lowering of freight rates, as the reform of the tariff on lumber in 1894 has already produced a lowering of freights on that class of article, as my hon. friend knows. It is the intention of the Government, not this session, but next session, to introduce that legislation respecting the tariff which will compel the lowering of the freight rates as well.

#### SUB-COLLECTOR FOR THE PORT OF LOUISBOURG.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough) asked :

1. Is the Government aware that Mr. Patrick O'Toole, of Louisbourg, Cape Breton, sub-collector for that port, is engaged in business as a general merchant?

2. Have the Government had any communication with any parties in reference to this matter?

The **CONTROLLER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir H. Joly de Lotbinière). In the absence of the Controller of Customs, I give the answer to the hon. gentleman's question as follows:—1. The Government is aware that Mr. Patrick O'Toole, of Louisbourg, Cape Breton, sub-collector, at a salary of \$150 per year, at that port, is reported to run a general supplying store. 2. Communications from W. H. McAlpine, of Louisbourg, have been received in reference to this matter, in May and June, 1896.

#### LAND TRANSFERS.

Mr. OLIVER asked :

Have all the lands earned by the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company, Regina, Qu'Appelle and Long Lake Railway Company, Manitoba North-western Railway Company and the Alberta Railway and Coal Company been transferred to these companies, and are the transfers recorded so that the record is available to the public?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). 1. Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company. The lands earned by this company