

QUESTIONS

Mr. Metcalfe enquired whether the Government would provide for reducing the present postage on letters.

Sir John A. Macdonald replied that the measure, when introduced, would speak for itself.

Hon. Mr. Connell enquired whether the Government contemplated making any further survey of the different routes named for the line of the Intercolonial Railway, previous to locating and deciding on the line, and, if so, what lines they intend to survey. Also whether they have it in contemplation to introduce during the present Session a measure for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway?

Sir John said the Government intended, during the first part of this session, to introduce a measure for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, and that they designed to have further reports and surveys made to assist in determining what route should be adopted.

Mr. Savary enquired whether it is the intention of the Government during the first part of this session to introduce to Parliament any measure to regulate the granting of letters patent for inventions, and if so, whether such measure will recognize the principle of reciprocity with American citizens, for want of which reciprocity heretofore no inventor in the Provinces, except residents of New Brunswick, have been able to secure patent rights in the United States on the same terms as American citizens.

Sir John said the Government intended to introduce a measure this session raising the law of patents.

Mr. Tremblay enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to erect a lighthouse at Portneuf Point; 2nd. Whether it is the intention of the Government, in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Trade in Quebec, to erect lighthouses at Egg Island and Manicouagan Point, and place a floating light provided with a steam whistle, at the eastern extremity of Red Island Shoal, in order to diminish the dangers of the navigation of the River St. Lawrence?

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Hon. Mr. McDougall said that the government was receiving information with respect to the necessity of improving the lighthouses, and otherwise facilitating the navigation of the St. Lawrence, but no conclusion had yet been come to as to the works necessary at any particular point.

Mr. Fortin enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to bring forward, during the present session, any measure for the purchase by the Government of the telegraph lines erected in the Dominion of Canada, and thereby to bring about a union of the telegraphic and postal services, with the view of making the former more complete, more efficacious, and especially more economical, and of extending it to the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and of the Great Lakes?

Sir John A. Macdonald said the Imperial Government had the subject under consideration, and the Canadian Government would await the result of their action.

Mr. Masson (Soulanges) enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to issue a new Commission of the Peace for the Dominion of Canada, and whether the right of appointing Justices of the Peace is vested in the Local Governments, for their respective Provinces?

Sir John A. Macdonald said it was not the intention of the Government. The question involved in the latter part of the enquiry came within the province of a legal tribunal.

Mr. Fortier enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to bring down, during the present session, any measure having for its object to render the navigation more safe and consequently more easy and more economical on the maritime coast of the Dominion of Canada, and in the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, and the Great Lakes, by the construction of additional lighthouses at the most dangerous points of the said coast, and the establishment of signals by means of cannon, bells, whistles, and such other apparatus to warn vessels of approaching danger when fogs, snow, or excessive darkness shut out the view of coast?

Hon. Mr. McDougall said the several subjects mentioned were under consideration.