

secretary to the official arbitrators from the 22nd November, 1880, until he was superannuated on the 1st September, 1889, the length of his service having been eight years, nine months and nine days. The Order in Council, which is dated 18th October, 1889, placing Mr. Thibault on the retired list, directs that in view of the abolition of his office and the faithful and efficient manner in which he performed his duties, ten years be added to his term of service, the board finding that Mr. Thibault was eligible within the meaning of the Civil Service Superannuation Act, and that his retirement would be in the public interest. 4. Amount of salary paid Mr. Thibault while in the service, 22nd November, 1880, to 21st January, 1884, at \$1,600, \$5,069.75; 22nd January, 1884, to 1st September, 1889, at \$2,000, \$11,203.56.

#### THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked :

Was the settlement arrived at between this Government and that of the province of Manitoba about the Manitoba school question, proposed by the Government of Canada, or did the proposal come from the Manitoba Government?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). Shortly after the conclusion of the last session of Parliament, the Government of Canada invited the Government of Manitoba to enter into negotiations with them with a view to that settlement; and in answer to that proposition, three members of the Government of Manitoba came to Ottawa. They had several conferences with the Canadian Government, and the result was the arrangement which is now before the country.

#### INFANTRY CORPS, MORRIS, MAN.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked :

Is it the intention of the Minister of Militia to authorize the organization of an infantry corps in the town of Morris, electoral district of Provencher, in the province of Manitoba?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). This matter has not been brought under my attention, nor, so far as I know, under the attention of the Minister of Militia.

#### L. T. DELISLE, LIGHTSHIP KEEPER.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Has L. T. Delisle, keeper of the Red Island Lightship, been dismissed from the service?
2. If so, for what reason?
3. Was an investigation held in the case of the said Delisle?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). 1. Yes, by Order in Council of the 2nd March, 1897. 2. From reports received from the agent of this de-

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partment at Quebec, and from other sources it was proved that Delisle was unsuited for the charge of this important light station, having absented himself at different periods from the lightship, and being addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor. 3. No formal investigation was considered necessary in the case, the agent's representations being sufficient.

#### POSTMASTER OF CAPLAN RIVER.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The other day the hon. member for Three Rivers and St. Maurice (Sir Adolphe Caron) put a question in these words :

Has Théophile Poirier, of Caplan River, been dismissed from the office of postmaster of that place?

The secretary of the department furnished me with a negative answer. A gentleman happened to speak to me upon the subject, and upon making inquiry, I find that the hon. gentleman has made a mistake in his question. There is no such postmaster as Théophile Poirier at Caplan River; the name of the postmaster there is Solomon Poirier. There is a postmaster named Théophile Poirier at a post office known as St. Charles de Caplan. I make this explanation so that if the hon. gentleman will state which post office and which officer he desires information about, I will give him an answer. Lest he might think that my answer related to the postmaster at Caplan River, I would say that the answer is based upon the statement that there is no such postmaster at Caplan River as is mentioned in the question.

#### FISHERY GUARDIAN, NORTH VICTORIA.

Mr. HUGHES. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries if he has an answer to the question I put to him the other day about the fishery guardian in North Victoria.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). I read the departmental answer the other day, and got a memorandum from the hon. gentleman saying that it was incorrect. I forwarded that to the officer in charge of the department, and have not received any reply. As there seems to be some dispute between the hon. gentleman and the officer in charge, if he will put his question formally on the paper, it will be formally answered.

#### THE PREFERENTIAL CLAUSE OF THE TARIFF.

Mr. McNEILL. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask my hon. friend the Controller of Customs what interpretation he places upon the words "on