

prepared to hold immediately after the creation of the new provinces?

2. If not, why not, and when will such conference be held?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). No conference has been held between the government of the Dominion and the government of Manitoba, but I have just stated that it is intended that during the recess there shall be a conference between the Dominion government and these several governments to discuss all matters affecting the relations between the Dominion and the provinces.

#### TRENT RIVER WATERS.

Mr. PORTER asked:

1. Are the waters of the Trent river and its tributaries under the control of the Federal government?

2. How was such control, if any, obtained, and for what purpose was such control obtained?

3. What is the extent of such control, if any?

4. Are the waters of the Trent river available, and if so, to what extent, to private individuals for development?

5. Is it the intention of the government to retain control, and to what extent, if any, of said waters to the exclusion of private individuals? If so, for what purpose?

6. What is the estimated water power which may be developed in the River Trent from Peterborough to the Bay of Quinté?

7. Has the government considered the disadvantages to private individuals of having the waters of the Trent river tied up for the purposes of the Trent Valley canal, as against development by private individuals, and in what manner does the government propose to relieve the situation as against such private interests?

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals):

1, 2 and 3. By the Act of the province of Upper Canada 3, Wm. IV., ch. 32 (1833) authority was given for improving the navigation of the River Otonabee, in the district of Newcastle, and also the adjacent waters leading from Mud lake to Scugog lake in the said district; commissioners were appointed and moneys appropriated for the purpose; also tolls for navigation were fixed.

By the Acts 6 and 7, Wm. IV., ch. 66, 1836 and 1837, certain works required to complete navigation on the River Trent, the River Otonabee, Buckhorn lake, Bobcaygeon falls and Purdy's mills, also the construction of a canal between the waters of the Bay of Quinté and Rice lake 'by improving the navigation of the River Trent' were authorized; money was provided, and the appointment of commissioners authorized. The commissioners were authorized to take lands for dams and locks and, further, to grant leases for the use of waters from the said erections or dams, canal or canals, for hydraulic purposes, and to fix and collect tolls for navigation.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE.

At the time of the union of the provinces in 1841, an Act of that year, chap. 28, appropriated moneys for certain public works, in which were included those 'for improving the internal waters of the Newcastle district', the powers of the commissioners being thereby transferred to the Board of Works.

By the Act of Confederation, 1867, 'Rivers and Lake Improvements' were included in the Provincial Public Works and Property to be the property of Canada, and 'navigation and shipping' was placed under the exclusive legislative authority of the parliament of Canada.

Authority over the Trent canal and its waters has descended through the several commissioners, Board of Works and Department of Public Works to the Department of Railways and Canals.

It may be added that by the Fisheries Act of 1868, ch. 60, 'any river or other water' may be set apart for the propagation of fish, and leases for fishing granted. In pursuance of this authority, various lakes and tributary waters of the Trent canal in the county of Peterborough, the River Otonabee and the River Trent down to the Bay of Quinté, have been so set apart.

4. There does not appear to be any restraint on the development, by private individuals, of any rights they may have acquired to the waters of the Trent river, subject, always, to the interests of navigation.

5. This is a matter of policy, to be determined by the exigencies of each case, as it may arise.

6. The water power which may be developed in the Trent river from Peterborough to the Bay of Quinté has not been estimated.

7. The waters of the Trent river are not tied up for the purposes of the Trent Valley canal, but the recognized principle of the department is always to dispose of the surplus water.

#### PASSAGE AT L'ILE-AUX-GRUES.

Mr. PAQUET asked:

1. Is the government aware that there is only 27 feet of water, at low tide, in the passage at l'Ile-aux-Grues?

2. Has the attention of the government been drawn to the necessity of deepening and widening the channels at the de Beaujeu bar, near l'Ile-aux-Grues and at the St. Roch des Aulnaies ferry?

3. Does the government intend to have the channels at the de Beaujeu bar and at the St. Roch des Aulnaies ferry deepened and widened during the year 1906?

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). Yes, the government is aware that there are only 21 feet of water at l'Ile-aux-Grues and it is intended to have the channel deepened during the present season.