

Bill (No. 85) to incorporate the Hull, St. Louis Dam and Victoria Springs Railway Company.—(Mr. Brodeur.)

Bill (No. 86) respecting La Banque du Peuple.—(Mr. Préfontaine.)

Bill (No. 87) to incorporate the Columbia River Bridge Company.—(Mr. Bostock.)

Bill (No. 88) to incorporate Les Cisterciens Réformés.—(Mr. LaRivière.)

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Mr. DAVIN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 89) to amend the Mounted Police Act, 1889.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). Explain.

Mr. DAVIN. The object of the Bill is to effect a purpose that no other Bill which has been introduced in this House could effect, and the object sought to be effected is that embodied in the Bill introduced by me in a previous session. What it would accomplish would be this: It would enable the department in case a policeman who had served ten years was disabled, to give him a pension. At present under the Pension Act a policeman who is disabled, is entitled to a pension only after he has served fifteen years. I think that is unjust; if a man who has served ten years is disabled during service, he should be entitled to a pension. The old Pension Act provides that a man who has served twenty-five years, and who leaves the service, shall be entitled to a pension. That, I think, is a little too long a time. I propose that if a man has served twenty years, he shall be entitled to a pension, but with the same provision that exists in regard to his possible service of twenty-five years. There is nothing to prevent him going on and serving twenty-five or thirty years, but if he wishes to leave after serving twenty years, and is in good health and strength, there is no reason why he should not have the small pension which is calculated on the basis laid down in the old Act. That old calculation is preserved in this Bill.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I have no desire at this moment to interpose between my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) and his Bill; but has he considered whether this legislation is in order?

Mr. DAVIN. A private member will probably be debarred, but the Government should take up this Bill. But I may say this to the Prime Minister: It is only by a very close and critical judgment that I can be held in any way to be enhancing the burdens on the public. The same remark will apply to a Bill which is already before the House, which does not make the same provision, but which errs in the same way. Of course, if the Government object to the first reading, I cannot help that. I am perfectly

aware that when it comes to the second reading, if the Government says: we cannot take it up, I will have to forego the legislation because it is outside the powers of a private member.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS AT HAMILTON AND NIAGARA FALLS.

Mr. CAMPBELL (for Mr. Gibson) asked:

Is it the intention of the Government to provide in the Supplementary Estimates for the payment for extra services rendered by Mr. Hugh Murray and Mr. John C. Bartle whilst acting collector of customs at the ports of Hamilton and Niagara Falls, Ontario, respectively?

The CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I am not able to answer "yes"; at least at present, to that question.

STATION-MASTER AT ST. CHARLES, INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

1. Has one Castonguay, station-master on the Intercolonial Railway at St. Charles, county of Bellechasse, been dismissed from the service?
2. If so, for what reason?
3. By whom has he been replaced?
4. Upon whose recommendation was he dismissed?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Yes, the services of Mr. Castonguay, station-master on the Intercolonial Railway at St. Charles, were dispersed with. 2. He was dismissed for taking an active and offensive part in the late elections. 3. He has been replaced by Mr. O. Bouchard, of St. Valier. 4. He was dismissed as the result of charges preferred against him by Mr. Talbot, M.P.

ARBITRATOR—SOULANGES CANAL.

Mr. BERGERON asked:

1. Have Messrs. A. McKuown, Duckett, of Co-teau Station, in Soulanges county, and Dr. Lalonde, of Rigaud, in Vaudreuil county, been appointed arbitrators on Soulanges Canal?
2. By whom were they appointed?
3. On whose recommendation?
4. What is the amount of their salary or fees?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. Messrs. A. McKuown, R. Duckett and Dr. Lalonde have been appointed valuers on behalf of the Government to value lands taken for the Soulanges Canal. 2 and 3. By Order in Council on the report and recommendation of the Minister of Railways and Canals. 4. Their fees are ten dollars per day for each day so employed, as has been the customary allowance, and reasonable actual travelling expenses.