

the expenditure being much less than for the two preceding years.

MR. MACKENZIE: Perhaps the hon. gentleman will state the number of pages in the Report for each year. There were not so many pages, perhaps, last year.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: If there were not so many pages, we have turned over a new leaf.

NATURALISATION LAWS.

QUESTION.

MR. KRANZ enquired, Whether there has been any recent correspondence with Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the Naturalisation Laws?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: There has been no recent correspondence on this subject; but it is the intention of the Government to renew correspondence with Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

ST. JOHN RIVER—BRIDGE ACROSS.

QUESTION.

MR. CONNELL enquired, What steps the Government have taken, or what steps they propose to take, to remedy the grievance complained of by the inhabitants of Carleton County, N.B., both last and this year, by several largely signed petitions, stating that a certain Railway Company, incorporated under an Act of the General Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, has constructed a bridge across the River St. John, at the town of Woodstock, with a draw so placed as not to allow sufficient accommodation for steamers to pass up and down the river with safety in prosecuting their business, thus impeding the navigation of the said river, contrary to law.

MR. MACKENZIE: It is not in order to put a long argument in a question. In this there are a number of assertions taken for granted.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: No doubt this question involves an argument which no person ought to put in a question. The question ought to be strictly limited to the enquiry, whether the Government have taken, or propose taking any steps, under this petition that has been presented. With respect to this portion of the question, the Government are enquiring into the matter, and will, of course, as is their duty, endeavour to remove any obstructions to the navigation found to exist.

HARBOUR COMMISSIONS.

QUESTION.

MR. VANASSE enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to revoke, this year, the Harbour Commissions of the Dominion, and to place the several harbours under the direction and care of the Department of Public Works.

MR. LANGEVIN: It is not the intention of the Government to do so.

TEA IMPORTS.

QUESTION.

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT enquired, 1. Whether it is the intention of the Government to levy a differential duty on teas imported from the place of growth, when ordered under letters of credit, part by "overland," part by Suez Canal, and the balance, with dust of the whole, *via* United States, by sailing vessels round the Cape of Good Hope; 2. In the case of teas bought at the same time and imported by two or three routes, as above, and their arriving at different dates, will the Government consider such division as breaking bulk; 3. Will the whole purchase be held by the Customs until completed by the arrival of the dust; 4. In the event of part of the said teas being unsaleable in Canada, will importers be allowed to dispose of such teas at New York, without prejudice to rates of duty levied on balance.

MR. BOWELL: 1st. It is not the intention of the Government to levy any such duty. The question of route is not considered, other than that the teas shall be a direct importation from the countries of growth. 2nd. The Government does not recognise an importation of tea, as direct, when bulk has been broken in a foreign port; but in the case of a consignment of tea to Canada from the place of growth, the Government does not insist upon the whole consignment being brought to Canada in one vessel, or by any particular route, but the Customs dues require that all the teas or dust, referred to the original novice, be entered for duty. If part of such consignments only had arrived, the balance might be entered to arrive, or the tea which had arrived, might remain in sufferance warehouse until the whole consignment shall have been received. 3rd. The third question is covered by the answer to the second question. 4th.