

## POSTMASTER AT WILTON, ONT.

Mr. WILSON moved for :

Copies of all correspondence, petitions and other documents in possession of the government, together with the report of the post office inspector, with reference to the charges against and the dismissal of L. L. Gallagher, postmaster at Wilton, in the riding of Lennox, in the province of Ontario.

Hon. Sir WM. MULOCK (Postmaster General). Mr. Speaker, there is no objection to the motion going through except that I would ask my hon. friend (Mr. Wilson) to strike out the words 'together with the report of the post office inspector.' These reports have always been regarded as confidential. I do not know of anything in this particular report, that is confidential, but as a matter of precedent, I think it would be well to follow the old practice which has always obtained under this as well as former administrations.

Mr. WILSON. I understand it is not customary to make public these reports and so, with the consent of the House, I will agree to strike out the words 'together with the report of the Post Office Inspector.'

Motion as amended, agreed to.

## YUKON TERRITORY—TREADGOLD CONCESSION.

Mr. CASGRAIN—by Mr. Taylor—moved for :

Copies of the commission appointing Mr. Justice Britton and other commissioners to inquire into the Treadgold and other concessions in the Yukon Territory; and of all the evidence, exhibits, papers and documents produced at the investigation held by the said commissioners, and of any report or reports made by the said commissioners.

Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON (Minister of the Interior). Mr. Speaker, there is no objection to the motion passing, but, as I have stated already, the report has not yet been made. We will bring down the papers we have and when the report is made we will bring down the rest.

Motion agreed to.

## VENTILATION OF RAILWAY CARS.

Mr. E. D. SMITH (Wentworth) moved for :

Copies of all correspondence and agreements to date, between the government of Canada and any railway companies, in regard to ventilation of railway cars.

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals). I cannot find any record in the department of any correspondence between the department with respect to the ventilation of cars. It would, therefore, be futile to have the motion pass.

Motion dropped.

## MR. P. V. SAVARD.

Mr. CASGRAIN—by Mr. Taylor—moved for :

Copies of all Orders in Council, Ministerial Orders, or other documents appointing Mr. P. V. Savard, advocate, formerly a member of this House, to a position under the government, during the course of the years 1902, 1903 or 1904; of all correspondence relating to such appointment; and of all detailed accounts, memoranda, etc., for salary and fees as well as for travelling expenses and all other expenses presented by the said P. V. Savard; and statements showing how much has been claimed by the said P. V. Savard, for such salary and expenses, and how much has been paid to him.

Hon. CHARLES HYMAN. I wish to say that Mr. Savard was not appointed by Order in Council, but by a letter from the minister, dated 14th of May, 1903, and his last report was made on the 23rd October, 1903. There is no objection to the motion.

Motion agreed to.

## FLOODS IN ST. JOHN, IBERVILLE AND MISSISQUOI COUNTIES.

Mr. L. P. DEMERS (St. John and Iberville). (Translation). Asked :

For copies of all correspondence, petitions, claims, and other documents, in the possession of the government, relating to the damages sustained by the farmers of the counties of St. John and Iberville and Missisquoi, by the floods in the Richelieu river.

Mr. Speaker, in submitting this motion, I wish to make a few remarks. The question is one of interest to the people of the three counties of St. John, Iberville and Missisquoi. It is a well known fact that the banks of the Richelieu river, as far down as St. John's, are low. Every year there are freshets covering wide areas on both sides. These floods extend beyond the limits of St. John and Iberville, reaching into the county of Missisquoi, and it may be assumed with certainty that 25,000 acres of land, to say the least, are under water every year.

These lands are considered as being among the most fertile in the province of Quebec and they remain submerged for such a length of time, that crops cannot be grown on them. In the parish of St. George d'Henryville, for instance, a whole range had to be deserted. The fact of these lands remaining under water so late in the season is due, in the first place, to the action of the government, who, in building the canal from Chambly to St. John's, took possession of the old river-bed of the Richelieu, opposite the island of St. Theresa. The river at that point is thirty feet deep, while on the east side of the island it forms a rapid. The government had selected that location in order to save the expense of building the canal for a length of three