

ment to adopt that rate in respect of sales of Dominion lands.

LOAN TO MENNONITES IN MANITOBA.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked :

1. What was the amount of the loan to or for the Mennonites who settled in Manitoba, and at what rate of interest?

2. What reduction was made subsequently to the rate of interest, and what amount did that reduction represent?

3. Has the whole amount of the loan been paid back, as well as the interest? If not, what amount is still unpaid?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Hon. Sydney A. Fisher). 1. There were \$96,400 loaned to the Mennonites who settled in Manitoba. Interest at the rate of 6 per cent, to be funded four years after date, was charged; repayments afterwards to be annually made in sums calculated at the rate of 6 per cent compound interest. 2. A reduction was made from 6 per cent compound interest to 4 per cent simple interest. The actual amount of the reduction it is impossible to calculate. 3. The whole amount has been paid back, together with interest at 4 per cent. Amount loaned, \$96,400; amount paid, \$130,381.43; interest, \$33,981.43.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Is it the intention of the government to introduce this session legislation respecting the appellate jurisdiction of the Minister of the Interior in connection with mining claims?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Hon. Clifford Sifton). In reply to the question of the hon. gentleman, I beg to say that the jurisdiction referred to is conferred by order in council, and legislation is not required to modify it. The question of altering the method of dealing with appeals is now under consideration.

YUKON—TELEGRAPH CONSTRUCTION.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Referring to Yukon telegraph construction and to pages 7310 and 7311 *Hansard*, 1900, where the right hon. the Prime Minister promised to 'find in the department (of Public Works) all the information we could get, intending to bring it down without a motion,' and to page 7514 *Hansard*, 1900, where the hon. Postmaster General quotes the Prime Minister's request of the Public Works Department as follows:—'That every means be taken to furnish the hon. gentleman at the earliest moment with every bit of information in the possession of the department.'

(a) When will this information be furnished?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. Israel Tarte). Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper)

Mr. FIELDING.

is good enough to make a motion, all the information that he desires will be brought down as speedily as possible.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I understand that these papers will not be brought down unless they are formally moved for?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes. It will not take any time.

HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS AT SKINNER'S POND, P.E.I.

Mr. HACKETT asked :

What amount of money was expended at Skinner's Pond, Prince County, P.E.I., for harbour improvements at that place during the year 1900?

Was a special appropriation made for this work, and if not, out of what vote was the money taken?

What engineer recommended the work, and the date of his report?

On what date was the work commenced, and when stopped? The name of foreman, with number of days employed and wages paid him per diem?

Names of men employed, with number of days and wages paid each?

Names of men with teams, giving number of days employed and wages paid?

Has the department settled with and paid Mr. John Doyle, owner of the land taken for this work?

Is it the intention of the department to continue the work this season?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. Israel Tarte). 1. \$1,462.09. 2. No special appropriation, money taken from general vote, Harbours, P.E.I. 3. Mr. J. B. Hegan, report dated September 30, 1898. 4. Work commenced October 1 and ended December 22, 1900. 5. Name of foreman, Edmond Gallant, employed 72 days at \$2.50 a day. 6 and 7. Thirty-five men employed in October, 32 in November, and 20 in December, at \$1.35 per day. 8. Nothing has been paid Mr. John Doyle for land. 9. The matter is under consideration.

RURAL POSTAL DELIVERY.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

Is it the intention of the government to institute a system of rural postal delivery?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Hon. Wm. Mulock). The subject of a system of rural postal delivery is now receiving the consideration of the department.

CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT OPENING OF AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT.

Mr. BROCK asked :

1. Has any communication been received by the government of Canada inviting the Dominion to be officially represented at the opening of the parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in May next?

2. If so, has any gentleman been chosen as the representative of Canada? If not, why not?