

the able guidance of the hon. member from Richmond, to investigate the matter. An amount of evidence was obtained which certainly showed that the nuisance complained of was of a nature calling for some remedy. It was not to be expected that the Government should act at the moment, but we were informed by the hon. gentleman then leading this House, that during the recess consideration would be given to the question at issue, and that some remedial course would be adopted for the purpose of alleviating the cause of complaint therein referred to. Last Session it was also considered necessary to bring this matter under the consideration of the House, and the leader of the Government told us that he concurred in what had been stated by myself and others on the subject, but that other reports were being made and it was intended to await the result of those inquiries and investigations before the Government could arrive at any conclusion. Another year has passed over, and I do not see that any very great efforts have been made in that direction. The nuisance is still complained of, and has increased to some extent. Last year the Ottawa River was so impeded by this obstruction that it was almost impossible to navigate it. I have known boats to be detained two or three days at the foot of the locks before they could ascend to the basin, and the obstruction became so serious at the latter end of the season that the gentlemen who are chiefly chargeable with the commission of this offence went to the expense of dredging a portion of the channel to enable the vessels to enter the locks. Now, this state of things should not be allowed to continue. It is high time that action should be taken to put a stop to a practice which is ruinous to the navigation of the river. I am in hopes that when the subject has received attention on other rivers, notably in New Brunswick, that some action will be taken. Therefore I have put this notice on the paper with a view of eliciting the opinion of the Government on the question. I may say that this evil has increased from year to year. Hon. gentlemen will understand the serious character of the nuisance when I tell them that last season some four to four-and-a-half millions of sawlogs, producing some eight hundred millions of feet of sawn lumber, were cut in this vicinity, a large portion of these logs, in the shape of

sawdust, slabs and other refuse, being deposited in the Ottawa River. If this practice is continued it will, in the course of time, render the river absolutely useless for navigation, and I think it is high time that we should take steps to prevent further damage from this cause. The rivers of the Dominion are the natural highways of the country and nobody should be allowed to obstruct them. I hope that something substantial will be done during the present Session for the protection of the public interests. When the sessional papers for which I now move are brought down, and I learn the intentions of the Government, if they are not satisfactory, I intend to submit a short Bill in order to test the feeling of the House on the question at issue. I hope the Government will not object to producing the papers which I wish to obtain, as they may furnish information which will enable the House to arrive at a sound conclusion in the matter. The question is one of very great importance to this section, and I hope that some prompt action will be taken to abate the nuisance and remove the difficulties of which we complain. Something should have been done before now, but when the papers are brought down it may appear that there is good reason for the delay. I recognize the importance of the lumber trade to this section of Canada, but there are other interests to be conserved and protected as well as the lumbering interest. The subject is one of such general importance that no private interest or feeling should be allowed to interfere with a settlement of it in the public interest.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The Government, of course, have no objection whatever to the Address being carried, but I think we might conveniently dispense with a further discussion of the questions which my hon. friend proposes to raise until we have the papers before the House, and can see exactly what these various experts have reported on the matter in question.

HON. MR. SCOTT—The papers I suppose will be brought down at an early date; they must be all ready.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—They will be brought down as soon as possible; I cannot say whether they are ready.