

Is it the intention of the Government to grant, this year, subsidies to the Quebec Oriental Railway Company?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). I shall have to answer that question precisely as I have answered previous questions of the same character. The question of which railways are to be granted subsidies, if any, is under consideration.

GROSSE ISLE WHARF.

Mr. **BELCOURT** (for Mr. Choquette) asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to place in the Supplementary Estimates, this year, a sufficient amount for the extension of the Grosse Isle wharf, as recommended by the report of Dr. Montizambert?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). I can only say that this question will be answered when the supplementary Estimates, if any, come down.

WESTERN BLOCK FIRE.

Mr. **BELCOURT** (for Mr. Choquette) asked :

What public documents were destroyed by the fire in the Western Block? To what department did these documents belong? Over what period did they extend?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). The Department of Public Works has lost the correspondence received from 1880 to 1892, with the exception of the correspondence relating to matters still pending and which being kept in another part of the building was saved. None of the books of reference were lost. All contracts, deeds, &c., were saved. The vouchers in the Accountant's office up to the year 1890 were destroyed, these, with the correspondence above referred to, being kept in the attic where the fire originated. All the plans in the Chief Engineer's and Chief Architect's offices were saved.

Marine and Fisheries.—The Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries states as follows :—

Files of this department, Marine Branch, containing letters and reports received from 1867 to 1879, inclusive, and also register books of correspondence received from 1867 to 1882, were consumed in the late fire. Some volumes of the "Canada Gazette" and a supply of forms used in connection with the various services of the department were also destroyed, and also a quantity of printed reports of the department, dating from confederation to the present time. Most of the letters received by the Fisheries Branch from 1867 to 1888, inclusive, were lost.

The North-west Mounted Police branch having its office wholly in the attic of the Western Block naturally suffered most from the fire. The same may be said of the records of the Departments of Marine and Fisheries and Public Works, which were

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destroyed and which were also filed in that attic. The Departments of Militia, Trade and Commerce, and Customs, being on the ground floor of the building, where the fire did not reach, did not lose any documents on that account.

Customs.—The Commissioner states as follows :—

I have to state that, so far as I am aware, there were not any public documents belonging to the Customs Department destroyed by the fire in question.

North-west Mounted Police.—The Controller of the North-west Mounted Police reports that the following documents in connection with his office were destroyed by the fire :—

1. Files of correspondence, 1877 to 1887, inclusive, and a few files of 1891.
2. Registers of correspondence, 1892 to 1895, inclusive, and one register of 1881.
3. Letter-books, 1873 to 1883, and six letter-books covering broken periods between 1887 and 1892.
4. All vouchers, financial statements, &c., 1879-80 to 1892-93, both inclusive.
5. Q. M. ledgers, returns, &c., all years prior to 1893-94.

Trade and Commerce.—The Commissioner states :

So far as this department is concerned, I am not aware that any documents were absolutely destroyed. Many that have been missing have turned up from time to time from other departments, and the probability is that there have been none of importance either lost or destroyed.

Militia and Defence.—That department reports that they did not lose anything by the fire, but that some of their books and vouchers were damaged by water. It is thought, however, that none of the damage will prove a serious loss.

MISS KELLY, WINDSOR POST OFFICE.

Mr. **TAYLOR** (for Mr. Hughes) asked :

Is Miss Kelly employed in the Windsor, Ontario, Post Office? Have her services been dispensed with? If they have, for what reason? Was there an investigation? What was the ground of complaint?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). Miss Kelly was brought from West Huron and appointed temporary clerk in the Windsor Post Office after the by-election between Hon. J. C. Patterson and Mr. M. C. Cameron, but there was no public need of her services in the Windsor Post Office at any time, the strength of the staff of that office being much beyond the needs of the service, and the total amount of the salaries excessive. Accordingly, her services, being wholly unnecessary, will be dispensed with on the 1st of May next. This is the sole reason for her removal, and no person will be appointed to fill the position in question.