

Intercolonial railway since and including the year 1896?

2. What did the said coal cost per ton delivered on the main line of the Intercolonial railway, say between Ste. Rosalie and Halifax?

3. Who were the ministers in charge when these purchases were made?

4. What reasons were given to justify the purchase and importation of said United States coal?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The answers to the hon. gentleman's questions are as follows:

1. 1900-01, 61,079 gross tons; 1908-09, 36,059 gross tons; 1913-14, 15,331 net tons.

2. 1900-01, 14,300 gross tons at \$3.75 f.o.b. cars, Montreal; 27,646 gross tons at \$5.30 f.o.b. cars, St. John; 3,977 gross tons at \$3.93 f.o.b. cars, St. John; 556 gross tons at \$4 f.o.b. cars, St. John; 14,600 gross tons at \$4.20 f.o.b. cars, St. John; total gross tons, 61,079.

Above prices do not include duty of 59cts. per gross ton, as the coal was admitted free of customs' charges.

1908-09: 36,059 gross tons at \$4.85 f.o.b. cars, St. Hyacinthe, duty paid.

1913-14: 15,331 net tons at \$4.10 f.o.b. cars, Ste Rosalie Junction, duty paid.

3. 1900-01: Honourable Andrew G. Blair.

1908-09: Honourable George P. Graham.

1913-14: Honourable Frank Cochrane.

4. 1900-01: Apprehension on the part of the management that friction between miners and certain coal operators would lead to cessation of work.

1908-09: Strike in existence at the Springhill Mines and inability of other collieries to make up shortage.

1913-14: Greater consumption of coal than anticipated and inability of management to obtain additional quantities required, when wanted, from usual sources of supply.

ONTARIO BILINGUAL SCHOOL QUESTION.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. DAVID moved:

This House, without derogating from the principal of provincial autonomy, deems it proper and within the limits of its powers and jurisdiction and in pursuance of the object for which it was established, to regret the divisions which seem to exist among the people of the province of Ontario in connection with the bilingual school question and believes that it is in the interest of the Dominion at large that all such questions should be considered on fair and patriotic lines and settled in such a way as to preserve peace and harmony between the different national and religious sections of this country, in accordance with the views of the Fathers of Confederation and with the spirit of our constitution.

Hon. Mr. POWER.

He said: At the session of 1906, I concluded a speech in the Senate by the following words:

"Preserve the Senate, improve it, if you like, but keep it, in order that it may fulfil its mission of peace, order, harmony and justice."

It is under the inspiration of the same views and feelings that I now rise, and I think it proper to declare, "That I was induced by no person, either in this House or elsewhere, to make the present motion; that I alone am responsible for it, and that it is in accord with my well-known ideas, so often expressed, as to the mission of the Senate."

One of the main reasons alleged by the Fathers of the Confederation to justify the establishment of the Senate was, that a High Chamber, where all the provinces would be equally represented, would afford adequate protection to minorities. In order to meet the objections of his adversaries, and even of some of his friends, to the representation of the provinces in the House of Commons being based upon population, Sir George Etienne Cartier declared several times that the province of Quebec, being represented in the Senate by one-third of its members, would find there the protection which it might require, either for itself or for Catholic and French minorities, in the different parts of the country. He said, and his organs repeated, that there would always be in the Chamber enough reasonable people to do what was right and just towards all creeds and nationalities. I was one of those who did not share entirely his confidence and did not believe his predictions. But the honourable members of this House will, I hope, take advantage of this occasion to justify his hopes and views.

Sir John A. Macdonald and George Brown, the two principal Fathers of the Confederation, expressed about the same views on the object of the establishment of the Senate and its mission. The fact that the members of that House are appointed for life was considered as a guarantee that they would do justice impartially and independently, would fill the functions of a high court of justice, of a board of arbitration, of conciliation.

Well, there is a province, the province of Ontario, where a minority considers itself ill-treated, and deprived of one of its most sacred rights, by the famous by-law No. 17. Has the French minority the right to complain of that by-law, to contend that it has changed its position as regards the teaching of the French language? It is a fact which