

the legislature of Quebec, authorizing the government of that province to pay to railway companies entitled to subsidies in land converted into money, seventeen and a half cents in lieu of the last thirty-five cents to which they are entitled?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). The provincial statutes of the province of Quebec are not yet before the Department of Justice, and have not yet been reported on.

BREAKWATER AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER NICOLET.

Mr. **BOISVERT** (Translation) asked :

Whether the Government is aware that part of the breakwater of the port of refuge constructed at the mouth of the River Nicolet was carried away by the ice last spring ?

Is it the intention of the Government to place in the Estimates this session an amount sufficient to provide for needed repairs to the said breakwater ?

The **MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Mr. Tarte). (Translation.) In reply to the question put by the hon. member, I may say that my attention was called to the extent of the damages done to that breakwater. As to the second part of the question put by the hon. member, I may inform him that it is now being taken under consideration by the officials of my department.

SOUTH SHORE RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. **BOISVERT** asked :

Whether it is the intention of the Government to afford assistance this year to the South Shore Railway Company, so as to enable the company to construct its line from Sorel to Lévis?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). I can give the hon. member no other answer than I gave to a similar inquiry yesterday, that the whole subject of the giving of bonuses or subsidies to railway companies is under consideration, and has not been determined upon by the Government.

FISHING LICENSES IN BONAVENTURE, P.Q.

Mr. **McALISTER** asked :

Has notice been given to James Robertson, of New Richmond, in the county of Bonaventure, province of Quebec, that license for his salmon fishing stand would not be renewed this year?

If so, why is such renewal refused?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Mr. Davies). I am not aware personally, and I am advised that the department is not aware, that any such notice has been given.

Mr. **LANGELIER**.

POST OFFICE AT BEAR ISLAND, N.S.

Mr. **GILLIES** asked :

1. Who is postmaster at Bear Island, in the county of Richmond, Nova Scotia, at the present time?

2. When did Michael Morgan cease to be postmaster?

3. For what length of time did he fill the position of postmaster at Bear Island?

4. Was he dismissed from office?

5. If so, for what cause?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). As the answer from the department has been delayed, I am able at the present moment only to give the hon. gentleman a summary of it, but I will furnish him with an additional statement if he desires more particular information. The postmaster at Bear Island was Mr. Michael Morgan. He was appointed in September, 1892, and on 1st March, 1897, the office was abolished as being of no real public utility, the revenue for the whole year having been only \$11.97. Under these circumstances the office was abolished, and with that of course the postmastership came to an end; but in no other respect was there a dismissal.

HOUSE OF COMMONS RESTAURANT.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I should like to mention a matter to the House. I am informed that a gentleman outside of the House stated that he had been informed and believed that the Order passed by the House of Commons was not enforced—that is the Order as to the non-sale of liquor in the restaurant—and that members of the House could obtain what they want on this side without going to the Senate. I think it just as well that this statement should be formally and distinctly contradicted. I can hardly believe that any gentleman can have stated exactly what is reported, because the facts are so absolutely contrary to the statement. Ever since the Order was passed by this House the instructions have been that there shall be no sale within the precincts of this House, and these instructions have been absolutely and strictly enforced by me. They have been not merely nominally enforced, but I have taken every precaution in my power to see that the rule was thoroughly carried out. To-day I sent for the restaurant-keeper and questioned him, and he utterly and entirely denies that any sale has been made by him of beer, wine or spirits, or that any is kept within the precincts of the House. I furthermore instructed the serjeant-at-arms to make an investigation, and I have this report from him to-day :

In compliance with your instructions of this day, I have made a careful examination of the restaurant premises, and have the honour to report that no wine, beer or spirits is being kept therein by the caterer.