

pants of the said lands, advising them of the appointment of Messrs. Walter Jones and Robert Glenny and of the duties assigned to them in connection with the inspection and valuation of the said lands, and informing each of the squatters that if his title to the improvements made on the land is found to be correct, he would have an opportunity of purchasing such land as he occupied.

#### CAYUGA POST OFFICE

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked, 1. Whether a lot of land was purchased in the village of Cayuga as a site for a post office, and if so, what was agreed to be paid for same? 2. What is the estimated cost of erecting a post office in the said village of Cayuga?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. A lot was purchased for \$450. A contract has been given for the erection of the buildings, the amount of the contract being \$7,874.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND STEAM COMMUNICATION.

Mr. PERRY asked, Have the Dominion Government taken any steps towards carrying out the suggestions of Earl Granville, contained in his despatch to Lord Lansdowne, dated March 30th, 1886, on the subject of carrying out the terms of Confederation on the part of the Federal Government with the Province of Prince Edward Island, with respect to continuous efficient steam communication with the main land?

Mr. FOSTER. The Dominion Government are taking, from time to time, steps towards carrying out the suggestions of Earl Granville, contained in his despatch to Lord Lansdowne, dated March 30th, 1886, on the subject of carrying out the terms of Confederation on the part of the Federal Government with the Province of Prince Edward Island, with respect to continuous efficient steam communication with the main land?

#### EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT moved for:

Return, in the form used in the Statements usually published in the *Gazette*, of the Exports and Imports from the 1st day of July, 1887, to the 1st day of March, 1889, distinguishing the products of Canada and those of other countries.

He said: I have no objection, if it will facilitate the matter, to the Minister of Customs producing this return, minus British Columbia, as is very often done.

Mr. BOWELL. Very well.

#### TRADE COMBINATIONS.

Mr. WALLACE moved:

That a Select Committee be appointed to examine into the nature, extent and effect of certain combinations said to exist with reference to the purchase and sale in Canada of any foreign or Canadian products, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

And further, with power to examine persons called before the committee on oath.

Said committee to consist of Messrs. Bain (Soulanges), Bain (Wentworth), Béchar, Boyle, Casgrain, Daly, Flynn, Gillmor, Guillet, Grandbois, Landry, McDougald (Pictou), McKay, Paterson (Brant), Wood (Westmoreland), and the mover.

He said: The question that I have to submit to the consideration of the House to-day is one of very considerable importance. The question of the nature and the extent of the various combines in this country demands at the hands of this Parliament the fullest investigation, not only because it affects the issue as to whether the people are to pay higher prices for manufactured articles and other products under the influence of these com-

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell).

binés and trusts, but also because in it are involved the important interests of public morality and personal freedom of action. Certain combinations of persons engaged in the same lines of trade and business are necessary and proper for the legitimate conduct of their affairs; and on this point the Chicago Board of Trade has passed a resolution defining the fundamental principles common to Exchanges, and of Boards of Trade, which resolution I will take the liberty of reading to the House. The resolution declares the purposes of such associations to be:

"To maintain a commercial exchange; to promote uniformity in the customs and usages of merchants; to inculcate principles of justice and equity in trade; to facilitate the speedy adjustment of business disputes; to acquire and disseminate valuable commercial and economic information; and generally to secure to its members the benefits of co-operation in the furtherance of their legitimate pursuits."

These are the lines laid down, not, perhaps, in so many words, but generally by the Boards of Trade of this country, and also may be considered the lines upon which manufacturing industries may combine legitimately. We are told that various Boards of Trade, that combinations of various kinds of manufacturing industries, have gone further than this. We are told that they have combined to regulate prices, and not only to regulate the prices at which the manufacturers shall sell, but also the prices at which the dealers are bound to sell. We have here the evidence of a Montreal firm, Lightbound, Ralston & Co., who refused to join the sugar combine, and who made the following statement, and it is an important one, as showing that this not only affects the manufacturers but the dealers:—

"The Wholesale Grocers' Guild succeeded last September in getting the refiners committed to an arrangement whereby firms whose names were not on the list had to pay rather more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent per lb. on yellow, and nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per lb. on white sugars, more than members of the Guild were paying, and at the same time, with every 100 barrels of granulated had to purchase 200 barrels of yellow sugar, whether in want of the latter or not."

The effect of which was virtually to drive all those out of the business who were not members of this Grocers' Guild. I have here a copy of the agreement which is said to have been signed by this Grocers' Guild, of which I will read two clauses:

"We, the subscribers to this agreement, hereby covenant and agree for ourselves and with each other to faithfully and honorably perform and carry out the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth for the regulation and sale of all graded sugars.

"Any firm or individual belonging to this association who shall sell the articles stipulated, or allow them to be sold, for less than the price fixed by the committee, shall be reported to the committee of arbitration, and upon conviction of that fact to the satisfaction of the committee, said member shall be expelled from the association by a majority of the votes at any regular meeting, a vote of censure shall be placed upon the records and reported to all the manufacturers of the article in question."

Now, I think the effect of that would be to simply drive those men who do not conform to this cast-iron regulation out of the business. I think it is a most extraordinary proceeding, because it interferes with the freedom of trade, which is the right of men dealing in any article in this country. We know also, or we hear, that these combines are working in other directions. We know that in the article of coal, an article of most vital importance, more particularly to the inhabitants of cities, a ring has been in operation for many years, and that to the disadvantage of the people of this country. I have here a statement compiled by a New York paper, showing the cost of a ton of coal, the cost of handling a ton of coal, the amount of royalties to be paid, and, allowing for large profits, more than 25 per cent. for every one handling it, and showing that coal can be delivered in New York for \$3.49 per ton. Estimating the same ratio of expenses, it would cost a little more, say, in the city of Toronto, but, in the calculation which I have here, and the details of which I will not trouble the House with, I find that the rates of freight are three-fourths of a cent