

House of Commons Debates

SECOND SESSION, FIFTH PARLIAMENT.—47 VIC.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 12th March, 1884.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

DISTRIBUTION OF DOMINION STATUTES.

Mr. AMYOT enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to furnish yearly to the several organized Municipalities a copy of the Dominion Statutes, or at least a copy of the Public Statutes?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I am under the impression that all the Municipalities are included in the free list of distribution. However, if the distribution is not done now, I shall see that it be done in future.

MONTREAL POST OFFICE.

Mr. HOLTON enquired, Is it the intention of the Government to improve the post office service in the city of Montreal by keeping the office there open until a later hour each day than at present, and by providing for the immediate delivery of mails arriving there in the evening?

Mr. CARLING. My attention having been called to the inconvenience of the present mail arrangements in the city of Montreal by the representatives of that city some time ago, I instructed the inspector to make enquiries into the matter, and he has made a report, upon which the post-master has been ordered to keep the post office open until 10 o'clock each night.

THE CHIEF CLERK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Mr. CASEY enquired, Who is the chief clerk in the Department of the Secretary of State? On whose recommendation was he appointed? What were the special qualifications which led to his appointment over the heads of others?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. There is a chief clerk in each of the different branches of the Department. The chief clerk of correspondence, which is the main branch of the Department, is Mr. Henry J. Morgan, who is a chief clerk of the first grade; in the register branch, the chief clerk is Mr. L. A. Catellier, who is a chief clerk of the first grade; the Queen's Printer, Mr. Chamberlin, is a chief clerk of the first grade; Mr. W. Henry Jones is a chief clerk of the second grade; and Mr. Alphonse Audet, the keeper of the records, is a chief clerk of the second grade. Mr. Catellier and Mr. Morgan were appointed on the 1st of January, 1879, Mr. Chamberlin on the 1st of July 1881, Mr. Jones on the 1st of July, 1880, and Mr. Audet on the 7th of June, 1883. Some of them have been a long time in the Civil Service,

all of them were formerly either in the Departments or in the House of Commons, and they have been recommended and appointed by Orders in Council generally. The chief clerk of my own branch, (Mr. Morgan) the clerk who represents the Deputy, was appointed in 1853, I do not know under whose recommendation.

Mr. CASEY. I ask leave of the House to explain what I mean by special qualifications. When a man is appointed and not promoted, I understand that the Civil Service Act requires his special qualifications to be stated.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I would like to suggest to the hon. gentleman that if he wants some special information, he might move for some papers. I know what he means. He might better have asked directly what he wanted. If he wants any particular information he may ask, and the answer will be given.

CANAL BETWEEN THE THAMES AND LAKE ERIE.

Mr. CASEY enquired, Is it the intention of the Government to proceed at an early day with the work in connection with the canal between the River Thames and Lake Erie (through the township of Dunwich) for which surveys were made during the past summer?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. To give a full answer to this question, I would have to read a statement which has been given to me in reference to it. I suppose that would not be in order, in which case I may say that the information obtained by these surveys shows that, within the limits of a reasonable expenditure, the scheme may be classed as impracticable.

Mr. MACKENZIE. That was known before the surveyors went there.

CLAIM OF MR. GEORGE LAVOIE.

Mr. BILLY enquired, Whether the Government have in their possession an award made by one of the Dominion Arbitrators, in relation to a claim presented by Mr. George Lavoie, asking for an amount sufficient to cover the losses incurred by him in the burning of his barn and its contents, in May, 1872? Does the said award state that the said fire was caused by one of the locomotives of the Government, on the Intercolonial Railway? Is it stated in the said award that, in equity, the Government is bound to pay to the said George Lavoie the amount claimed? Does the award further state that the amount claimed is not too high? Finally, is it the intention of the Government, if the award contains such statements, to reimburse Mr. George Lavoie for the amount of the losses by him incurred on the occasion aforesaid?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I beg to say, in reply to the hon. gentleman, that the Government have a report from one of the arbitrators, but not an award; that this report