

that plea has been set aside or quashed—coming on again with a new set of facts, and if that is set aside or quashed, coming on again with another. I did not think such a thing was possible under our law, but it seems to be possible; and as evidence has come before me that it is possible, I wish to amend section 634 of the Criminal Code. I also think the Criminal Code should be so amended that if, in the plea of justification, the libeller makes a criminal charge against the libelled, and fails to prove it, he should at once be liable to be put on his trial for that. If this change is not made, then, as a learned judge has said, a man may libel you worse in the pleadings of a court than he can in a publication, and go scot free. In Quebec, as appears from the case of the "Mail" and Laflamme, in a civil suit, the person bringing an action for libel cannot only recover for the damage done by the libel, but also for the libel in the pleadings. I am not sure that that can be done outside of Quebec, but what I propose has nothing to do with civil matters. It is to prevent possibly great hardship and put the law in a position in which I think every lawyer will agree it should be placed. In fact, I have not spoken to any lawyer on the subject who does not feel astonished that what I want to prevent could possibly occur, but the impossible has taken place.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON asked :

1. Has the report of the commission of officers appointed to investigate the affairs of the "Queen's Own Rifles," Toronto, been received by the Government?

2. If so, does the report recommend the reinstatement of Col. Hamilton?

3. Has any action been taken by the Government on the report?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). On the first two questions the General Officer Commanding reports as follows:—1. Yes. 2. The court had no power to make any such recommendation. All they were empowered to do was to inquire into, and report fully all the facts of the case. This they did. 3. No.

IONA STATION RESTAURANT.

Mr. BETHUNE asked :

Does the Government propose building a restaurant at Iona station, on the Intercolonial Railway? If so, when?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). No, the Government has not decided upon building a restaurant at Iona station, on the Intercolonial Railway, but the matter is under consideration.

Mr. DAVIN.

WHARF AT IONA.

Mr. BETHUNE asked :

Has the Government decided to build a new wharf at Iona, Victoria county, Nova Scotia, this season, or repair the old one?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). The matter is under consideration.

WHARF AT NORTH RIVER.

Mr. BETHUNE asked :

Was there a petition received from North River, St. Anns, Victoria county, Nova Scotia, praying that a public wharf be built at said North River? If so, will the prayer of the petition be granted?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). A petition has been received from North River, St. Anns, Victoria county, N.S., praying that a public wharf be built at that place. That petition is under the consideration of the Government.

GOLD DREDGING IN STEWART RIVER, YUKON.

Mr. McINNES asked :

1. In what newspapers and within what dates in each of such newspapers, did the Government advertise for tenders for a lease for the exclusive right to dredge for gold in a part of the bed of Stewart River, a tributary of the Yukon?

2. What are the conditions of the proposed lease referred to in the said advertisement?

3. Have any tenders been received? If so, from whom and for what amounts?

4. What is the nationality of the tenderers?

5. Is it the intention of the Government to accept any of the tenders? If so, which?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: 1. The following newspapers were authorized to insert an advertisement inviting tenders for a lease for the exclusive right to dredge for gold in a part of the bed of Stewart River:—The "Times," Victoria, B.C., the Vancouver "Daily World," Vancouver, B.C., the "Tribune," Calgary, N.W.T., the "Tribune," Winnipeg, Man., the "Free Press," Ottawa, the "Journal," Ottawa, the "Globe" Toronto, the Toronto "Star," the "Telegram," Toronto, the "Herald," Montreal, "La Patrie," Montreal, the "Witness," Montreal, the "Freeholder," Cornwall, the "Canadian Freeman," Kingston, the Advertising Printing Company, London, Ont. All the above named newspapers, with the exception of the last three mentioned, were authorized to insert the advertisement three times a week during the month of April. The last three mentioned papers were authorized to insert it three times. 2. The conditions of the proposed lease are annexed hereto. 3. Three tenders have been received, but have not yet been opened. Until the tenders are open-