

SMUGGLING BETWEEN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Is it the intention of the Government to provide by purchase, or otherwise, a steamer to be used for the purpose of putting a stop to the smuggling now going on between the United States and British Columbia; also to protect our deep sea fisheries in British Columbia from American poachers?

2. If so, will the vessel be ready for use this year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). The question of fitting up the steamer "Sir James Douglas" for the purpose of patrolling the coast was under the consideration of the late Ministry. It would require \$10,000 at least to make the necessary repairs to the hull and machinery and no appropriation has been made for the purpose. Consequently no action can be taken in the matter until the present Ministry have the opportunity of fully considering it.

CARRIAGE OF MAILS.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron) asked :

1. Who has the contract for carrying the mails from the Canadian Pacific Railway station, in the village of Gorrie, Ontario, to the Gorrie post office?

2. When was the contract given, and when will it terminate?

3. Was the contract given by tender or by private agreement?

4. What is the amount paid annually for carrying those mails?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: 1. Henry Perkins. 2. Contract was given on 1st January, 1893, and will terminate on the 31st December, 1896. 3. Contract was a renewal on the same terms and conditions as the prior contract. 4. \$160 per annum.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron) asked :

1. Who has the contract for carrying the mails from the Canadian Pacific Railway station, in the village of Fordwich, to the Fordwich post office?

2. When was the contract given and when will it terminate?

3. Was the contract given by tender or private agreement?

4. What is the amount of the contract annually?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to give him the following information:—1. Robert Mahood. 2. The contract was given on the 1st January, 1896, and will terminate on the 31st December, 1899. 3. The contract is a renewal on the same terms and conditions as that immediately prior to it. 4. The rate is 18 cents per trip; the annual payment will be \$112.68.

BONAVENTURE RIVER MONEY ORDER OFFICE.

Mr. FAUVEL asked :

1. At whose request was a money order office established at Bonaventure River post office, in the county of Bonaventure?

2. What has been the amount of receipts from the said source since its opening?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). In answer to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: Establishment of money order business applied for on 8th April, 1895, by Napoleon Poirier, Alfred Arsenault and fifteen others. Made a money order office, 1st July, 1895. Number of orders issued—5. Amount—\$75. Amount paid, nil. Money order business discontinued 30th July, 1896.

POSTMASTER AT QUEENSTON, ONT.

Mr. LANDERKIN (for Mr. Gibson) asked :

The name of the postmaster at Queenston, Ontario, the date of appointment and the salary paid?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The name is Charles Lowrey, the date of his appointment, 7th July, 1896, and his salary, \$156.

THE CRUISER "ABERDEEN."

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (for Mr. Casgrain) asked :

Whether the Government are aware that the cruiser "Aberdeen" was placed at the disposal of the leader of the Opposition, in the legislature of Quebec, F. G. Marchand, Esq., and Mr. Dechesne, M.L.A., during the present month of August to convey them to the Magdalen Islands?

Who, if any one, gave instructions to the commander of the "Aberdeen" to convey these gentlemen to the Magdalen Islands?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). In reply to the first question, No. In reply to the second, the usual permission was granted by the department, subject to the customary conditions that it would not interfere with the duties upon which the vessel was engaged and that the daily charge for subsistence while on board should be exacted.

PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE.

Mr. CRAIG asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to ascertain the mind of the people on the question of prohibition by means of a Dominion plebiscite? If so, when?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). As my hon. friend is aware, this is a part of the programme of the Liberal party. The Government intend to take a plebiscite, but the date cannot be fixed at present.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVE BOILERS.

Mr. LISTER (for Mr. Britton) asked :

Was the material as specified in the contract for six locomotive boilers for the Intercolonial