

make any satisfactory answer to the question. The hon. member will have to wait with the rest of us for the determination by their Lordships of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Mr. NESBITT: Will the hon. minister tell us what the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada was?

Mr. DOHERTY: The judges of the Supreme Court were divided in opinion. Two of their Lordships held that companies incorporated by Parliament or under the laws of Parliament were entitled to exercise the powers conferred upon them within the provinces; and that the right, at all events, of the provinces to impose taxes for the purpose of raising revenue was concerned, the provinces were not absolutely at liberty to prevent the companies from carrying on business within the provinces. It is a little dangerous for me to undertake to say offhand what the holdings of the different judges were, because the questions are intricate and involved, and it is not easy to say that there was an absolute decision applicable in all cases without taking into consideration the circumstances of the incorporation and the particular powers sought to be exercised. Speaking in a general way, however, two of the judges of the Supreme Court held favourably to the power of Parliament to incorporate companies and to confer upon companies incorporated powers exercisable not subject to be restricted by legislation of the provinces. So far as we are dealing with companies incorporated for purposes, which themselves are expressly included in the subjects regarding which this Parliament may legislate, the judges, as I understand it, held that these companies can do business within the provinces without being subject to restriction, and as to those companies which are incorporated only under the general powers upon the question, how far they may be subjected to further restrictions by provincial legislation in regard to the exercise of the powers conferred upon them were differences of opinion. While two of the judges, speaking in a general way, may be said to have held favourably to the incorporating powers on the part of this Parliament, and more restrictively than the others upon the question of the power of the provincial legislatures in regard both to the incorporation of companies to do business outside of the province, and also their power to restrict the operations of non-provincially incorporated companies, it is not possible for me

[Mr. Doherty.]

to undertake to discuss the matter in detail, or to specify in a word the difference of opinion existing. But the questions involved are, no doubt, of the very first importance to the business public of Canada; and, because they are of that importance and because there does exist on the part of the judges this marked divergence of opinion, it is important to have the judgment on the question of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

#### GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS MAIL SERVICE.

On the motion of Hon. W. T. White for Committee of Supply:

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL: I desire to call the attention of the acting Minister of Railways (Mr. Reid), who, I regret to see, is not in his place, to a matter relating to the news service organized lately by the Canadian Government Railways, with the laudable object of sending out bulletins to the newspaper press about the affairs along the line of those railways. News is sent out to the French-Canadian press as well as to the English press, and a French-Canadian journalist has asked me to read certain items from this service and put them on 'Hansard.' It will be seen that the French service is not what it might be; the work of translation is so faulty that it must have been made by a man who translates merely verbally and so falls into many grammatical errors. I will read certain items in order that the Postmaster General (Mr. Pelletier), who, I presume will look after the matter, may urge the appointment of a better translator:

Char Ferry pour le Passage à Georgetown, P.E.I.

(Correspondence special.)

Sackville, N.B., Feb. 28.—Durant les recent froids les vapeurs du Gouvernement qui font les services de Pictou, N.S., a Georgetown, P.E.I., atât englassée dans la glace et ne pouvaient naviger, mais il y a tout des indications que le Char Ferry sera bien adopte pour naviger sous des conditions ci dur. D'abord que l'eau de les plus grande passage etat couvert de grande morceau de glace, le plus petit passage de les Capes n'avait pas que de glace d'importance. Un vapeur comme la type de Char Ferry n'aurait pas de difficulté a force son passage a traverser les neuf mille qui sepparait l'isle de l'autre cote. Des persons qui ont fait le passage dans un bateau construi pour cette navigation n'ont pas rencontrer de glace qui est dangereuse. Il est dit par des marines qui ont traverses la route que la glace a cette passage nes pas ci grande comme a les autres parts de la Straits de Northampton. Le travail a la Cape Tormentine est toujours en conditions de préparation. Des large quantites de pierre de Sackville sont en route pour la Cape Tourmantine, et apres que la navi-