

districts, churches were larger than houses. Whether up to this day he has been able to find out for what reason, I have not yet learned; and while travelling in one of our country places he was very much surprised to find that there were still some stumps in the ground—at first sight he took them for natives of the place. Perhaps we do not deserve such a high compliment, but, at all events, this betokens the depth of his observations. I think that documents of this sort might well be left aside, and that our farmers would find much more benefit by receiving works on mechanics and the various agricultural industries. From this point of view, I think that the Government should grant the motion just made by my hon. friend. While we are discussing this matter, there is another question which I will submit to the Government. A few years ago professors of agriculture were appointed for Manitoba and the North-West. In the appointment of these professors an important element has been forgotten altogether, and the farmers of our nationality, who do not understand the language of Shakespeare, should have had some reason to ask, for themselves at least, the appointment as a professor of some one able to express himself in the language of Bossuet and of Racine. I have no doubt that the Government, now that they are aware of such a want in this professional staff, will, with their usual impartiality and the good will which they have always shown, give to the French element of Manitoba and the North-West, the consideration to which it is entitled.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN (Translation). In answer to the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Gigault) I beg to say, on behalf of my colleague, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, that if there are in this Department any petitions of the nature of those mentioned in the motion just made, such petitions will be laid before the House; but he is under the impression that there are none. As to the remarks made by the hon. member for Rouville and by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Landry), I beg to state also, on behalf of my colleague, that he concurs fully in the idea of circulating documents, treatises, or essays on agriculture and the mechanical arts. Quite often such treatises are not within the reach of our population and have not the practical bearing which these hon. members would wish to find in them; but the intention of the Government is certainly to act in the way these hon. gentlemen have just pointed out. As to the documents sent into Manitoba and the North-West, or in other parts of Canada where the French language is used, it is the intention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture that these people should receive therein the language with which they are most familiar, to wit, the French language; and I am convinced that it will be sufficient to draw his attention to the matter to cause him to avail himself of the first opportunity to comply with the desires of the hon. member who made this motion.

Motion agreed to.

THE EXCHANGE BANK OF CANADA.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT moved for a statement, in detail, of the account of the Government of Canada with the Exchange Bank of Canada, showing the various sums deposited by Government with, and withdrawn from the bank, with the dates of such deposits and withdrawals, and the amounts and dates of all payments of interest thereon, and the present state of the account, with a statement of the terms on which such deposits were made, and all correspondence, telegraphs, Orders in Council, bonds or other securities relative to any such deposits or withdrawals. He said: Before this motion is put, I desire to say a few words. I do not propose to enter into any discussion of the position of the affairs of that unfortunate bank, partly because the matter is now before the courts, and partly also because I dare say that if even a portion of the information I have received be correct, the attention

of the Government may not improbably be directed to the state of the present law, and they may find it necessary to give some further security to the public in connection with banks. That, of course, is for the consideration of the Government themselves; but with regard to the Exchange Bank, I may say that it had a record which certainly called for considerable caution on the part of the Government in making additional deposits with it. I do not know how those deposits were secured—that we shall hear presently; but there is one point on which, I think, some information might be properly asked now and given by the hon. Minister of Finance; that is, with regard to the statement made—with respect to which some official explanation, or apology, or whatever it may be called, was offered apparently on behalf of the hon. gentleman—that a further advance was made to that bank, and that a bond for a large amount was taken from the gentlemen connected with it to secure that advance. I need hardly say that that is a very unusual proceeding, and one which is, I think, to be regretted—a proceeding which might lead to various complications, both local and otherwise; and in any case, I cannot suppose, that the hon. Minister of Finance wants to add to his other duties that of deciding upon the personal solvency of gentlemen who come to ask for advances to banks. I should be glad if the hon. Minister would, on the present occasion, put the country into possession of some of the facts in relation to this matter; at any rate, so far as the advance made on this particular bond is concerned. The minor details can, of course, be had later, and, if necessary, some action may then be taken.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I think it would be more convenient to have this subject discussed, if a discussion is considered desirable, after the papers are laid on the Table of the House, because those papers will contain a report of the matter, which I do not wish unintentionally to misrepresent. I may state, however, that the bank was in difficulty—there was, I think, an anticipation of something of the kind before Parliament rose last year—and a very considerable pressure was brought upon the bank and a considerable amount of money withdrawn. The bank applied to the Government, and the Government, after consulting the Deputy Minister of Finance, and looking into the matter, thought it safe, and in the interest of the public, to advance \$200,000 to the bank at 5 per cent. interest, and on conditions similar to those on which advances were made to the Ontario Bank two years ago, and the Consolidated Bank. Some time elapsed, and it was found that the run continued, and it was doubtful if the \$200,000 would carry them through. They made application to the Government for another \$100,000, offering personal security in addition to the security that would be held under the Banking Act; and after considering the matter the Government accepted that additional security for the advance of another \$100,000. A call was made for \$100,000 of the \$300,000 before the bank suspended. A second call was made, but before the day expired on which that call was made the bank suspended, or closed its doors. But I say nothing further until all the papers are laid before the House.

Mr. BLAKE. I presume, after the hon. gentleman's statement, that he will take care that the papers are laid on the Table of the House at a very early day.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Very early.
Motion agreed to.

THE STEAMER PRINCESS LOUISE.

Mr. WELDON, in moving for copy of contract and specifications entered into by the Government with Jotham O'Brien for the building of the steamer *Princess Louise*; statement