

4. Is it the intention of the government to build both piers at Port Maitland?

5. Have any tenders been asked for building the west pier?

6. Who is the government inspector of the work?

7. Upon whose recommendation was he appointed?

Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways and Canals):

1. Mr. Battle's tender was not accepted by the department for building piers at Port Maitland. The contract was awarded to Edward Conroy at his tender price, on schedule, his being the lowest.

2. No extras. On May, 1907, the superintending engineer reported that on examination, the east pier showed that about 290 feet towards the shore end was in a badly damaged condition—requiring dredging out and replacing, and made suggestion for remedying the trouble. Authority was given for completing the necessary work on schedule prices as in tender.

3. \$52,780.

4. No decision has been reached by the department.

5. No.

6. Samuel Braund.

7. There does not appear to be any evidence in the department as to who recommended him.

TIMBER LICENSES RENEWED IN MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. AMES asked:

1. Of the 316 renewed timber licenses in force for the current year for berths in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Keewatin, how many affect limits on which no timber upon which royalty has been paid has been cut since the license was originally issued?

2. What total area in square miles do such limits represent?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior):

1. One hundred and seventy-eight.

2. 4,450.29 square miles.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS INTEREST.

Mr. FORGET—by Mr. Ames—asked:

1. Has the government, through the Honourable Minister of Finance, given an intimation to the Dominion Bankers Association that it will raise the rate of interest on government and post office savings banks deposits from 3 per cent to 3½ per cent?

2. Is it the intention of the Minister of Finance to so raise the rate? If so, when?

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance):

1. No.

2. No such conclusion has been reached.

DOMINION NOTES.

Mr. A. C. MACDONELL asked:

1. What was the total amount of Dominion notes outstanding on October 31, 1907?

Mr. LALOR.

2. What was the total amount of deposits in government and post office savings departments on October 31, 1907?

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance):

1. \$61,241,544.56.

2.

Dominion government savings banks... ..\$14,712,257 70

Post office savings banks... .. 46,519,453 64

Total.. . . . \$61,231,721 34

ORIENTAL IMMIGRANTS TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. M. S. MCCARTHY asked:

1. How many Japanese, Hindoos, or other Asiatics, respectively, have arrived in British Columbia since January 15, 1907?

2. How many arrived there in each of the three years preceding said date?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior):

1. Chinese, 1,325, of whom 1,152 remained in British Columbia; Japanese, 7,358, of whom 7,357 remained in British Columbia; Hindoos, 2,046, of whom 2,045 remained in British Columbia.

2. For the twelve months ending January 15, 1907:—Chinese, 59, of whom 55 remained in British Columbia; Japanese, 3,004, of whom 2,999 remained in British Columbia; Hindoos, 2,296, of whom 2,296 remained in British Columbia.

For the twelve months ending January 15, 1906:—Chinese, 10, of whom 10 remained in British Columbia; Japanese, 786, of whom 779 remained in British Columbia; Hindoos, 148, of whom 139 remained in British Columbia.

There are no records of Asiatic immigration prior to January 15, 1905.

SEED GRAIN DISTRIBUTION TO NORTHWEST.

Mr. LAKE asked:

1. Is it the intention of the government to make any distribution of seed grain to the settlers in the Northwest during the present winter or before next spring?

2. Has any request for the supply of grain for seed purposes been received by the government since September 1 last, from any persons in the province of Saskatchewan or on behalf of any such person?

3. If so, from whom have such applications been received?

4. How has the government replied to any such applications, whether favourably or not?

5. Has the government authorized any one to promise that any seed grain would be given or distributed? If so who was authorized?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior):

1. The matter is under consideration with the government of Saskatchewan.

2. Yes.