

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The money has not yet been distributed, but the order is now before Council and I hope the distribution will be made in a few days.

CHETICAMP HARBOUR.

Mr. CAMERON (Inverness) enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to dredge the entrance into Cheticamp Harbour, Inverness, during the ensuing summer?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I cannot give a positive answer to-day. This matter is still under the consideration of the Department.

POSTAL ORDERS—FRANCE AND CANADA.

Mr. HOUDE enquired, Whether the Government intend taking any proceedings towards the establishment of a system of interchange of postal orders between France and Canada?

Mr. CARLING. Arrangements have been entered into for the interchange of money orders between Canada and France.

THE COUNTY JUDGE OF ELGIN.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Before the Notices of Motions are called I would beg to state that the hon. member for Elgin has moved several times for papers connected with the petitions for the removal of Judge Hughes. I ascertain from the House that one of the objects of the return was to get copies of papers under the impeachment. The papers were dated as far back as 1862 and diligent search has been made in the Department of Justice and in the Secretary of State's office everywhere but they cannot be found.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Look in the Minister of Interior's pigeon hole.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Secretary of State has written to Toronto to try and get copies of the papers connected with that impeachment. In the *Globe* of the 18th March, it was stated that the Dominion Government has shown signs of intending to do nothing in the matter of the petition for the removal of Judge Hughes, that the petition has been returned with several small objections, the return being an insult to the people of Elgin, that Judge Hughes is a man after Sir John's own heart who wants the matter to be allowed to drop. The small objections against the petition amounts to this: that there was a paper sent down professing to be a petition, but no signature was attached to it, and it was sent back for the purpose of getting one man at least in Elgin to sign it. It was sent back with the request, first, to get the signatures of the petitioners; secondly, to get the dates when the acts complained of were done, and thirdly and generally, for a more orderly arrangement of the ground, which spread over twenty-five years.

Mr. WILSON. I might ask the hon. First Minister when this supposed petition was returned to Mr. Stanton.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The petition was received in the Department on the 21st January, and the Address was moved on the 28th January, so the hon. gentleman had full notice that that petition was coming down, and he moved immediately after he heard it was sent down. The petition was unsigned, and complained of acts happening a great many years ago. I cannot exactly tell the hon. gentleman, because I do not know, the information was not supplied to me, but I will ascertain when the letter was written back from the Department of Justice asking that a petition might be sent, if it was to be sent.

Mr. WILSON. I might state here that I think the hon. gentleman will find, if he examines the record, that not only

this winter but a year ago there were petitions sent down with signatures. I am credibly informed by the County Crown Attorney, who is making the charges, that he did so send the petition; and, therefore, I think very likely they will find that, prior to this short date mentioned by my hon. friend, there were petitions, and the matter has been placed before the Minister of Justice for over a year's time. As far as any remarks that were made in the *Globe*, I am not responsible for them.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not say you are.

Mr. WILSON. And the hon. the First Minister need not feel so heated over it. The people of Elgin do feel, and feel very strongly in the matter. They feel that there is a gross injustice being done to that county, and that the matter has been some time before the Government. I think there are petitions and that they have been presented here. Not only that, but, having those petitions, the hon. gentleman thought it was right and proper that Judge Hughes should be appointed as the chairman of his License Board. Those charges are preferred by the very man appointed to see that justice be done in the prosecution of offenders in the county of Elgin, the County Crown Attorney. He is no friend of mine, but is a warm political friend of the hon. gentleman, and he is the man who is bringing the charges against Judge Hughes, so that, whether Judge Hughes be a Reformer or a Tory, the charges are being preferred against him not by any of my friends, but by the hon. gentleman's own friends.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is not a question of friends at all. If Mr. Stanton had sent the petition down, if he wished to make it, he should have taken the responsibility of signing it. But he did not sign it. He merely says, I beg to send down a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Elgin, but it so happened that no inhabitants of Elgin signed it. The last papers found were some which had come to the present Chief Justice Wilson when he was a member of the Government, and there is no entry in the Department of Justice of any action by him, and there is no entry of any other petition until this blank paper was sent down the other day.

Mr. WILSON. I might ask whether the petition has come yet signed by Mr. Stanton.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No, it has not; it had not five minutes ago, because I saw the Deputy Minister of Justice and asked him the question.

Mr. WILSON. He said he had the return some time ago and he sent it back to get the additional return in reference to the count of impeachment.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No, I did not say that. I said the petition, or what professed to be the petition, was sent back with a request to get some signatures and to have the date specified, and there has been no return to that. As to the other branch, the hon. gentleman wanted a return of the proceedings on the impeachment matter; those were searched for, and, as there were none found, there is an enquiry being made in the Courts upon it.

REGION NORTH OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

Mr. DAWSON, in moving for a return of all reports not hitherto published, relating to the character and probable resources in agricultural lands, forests, minerals and otherwise of the country through which the Canadian Pacific Railway is being constructed to the north of Lakes Huron and Superior, embracing all information in possession of the Government in respect to the whole of the region intervening between the Great Lakes and the southern coast of Hudson's Bay, said, In making this motion, it is not my intention to press