

mail steamship line, said that if the imperial government granted a subsidy of £60,000 a year, the Dominion government would supplement it with a subsidy of £15,000 a year, and the imperial authorities were considering the question. Mr. Charlton's resolutions, requiring that departmental reports be published before the meeting of parliament, were adopted. Mr. Fisher moved a resolution proposing to abolish the position of deputy speaker. He pointed out that the position was unnecessary, and the action of the government in neglecting to elect one during the present session proved that it was so. The house divided on the motion, which was rejected by 108 to 67. Mr. Pope moved a resolution to make a complete road from Oxford to New Glasgow as a public work. Mr. Blake reviewed the course of the government with respect to this road, pointing out that the minister of finance was now trying to mend his broken promises. It was fortunate for the counties of Cumberland, Pictou and Colchester that the finance minister re-entered the cabinet and had to run an election, otherwise they would never have got their railway or have got the Short Line railway debts. Sir Charles Tupper said the road was an important one, and charged Mr. Blake with sending down Mr. Anglin to offer bribes to Nova Scotia before the last general election. Mr. Blake said the assertion that he sent Mr. Anglin to Nova Scotia was utterly untrue. He did not know Mr. Anglin was going to that province until after he had returned. Mr. Kirk said the government would never have undertaken to build the Oxford and New Glasgow road had not the Repeal party carried Nova Scotia in June.

Mr. Thompson, in answer to Mr. Weldon, said that the delay in trying the case of the schooner David J. Adams had been because it was believed to be more convenient to have two or three similar cases tried together.

Mr. Somerville moved for papers showing why Indian Agent Creighton, of Saugeen, had been dismissed. Sir John Macdonald opposed the motion, and declined to agree to bring down the information asked for. Mr. Blake condemned the conduct of the government, in refusing information in regard to the conduct of a public officer. After some discussion Sir John stated that the agent referred to had been dismissed for intemperance and trading with the Indians. The motion was then dropped. Mr. Flynn, in moving for correspondence relating to the lobster fisheries, complained that the regulation in reference to this fishery was very unsatisfactory. The fishery season should be extended. Mr. Welsh said that if the destructive methods of fishing were allowed to continue, lobsters would soon be extinct on Prince Edward Island coasts. After remarks from Messrs. Davies, Kirk, and Landry, the motion was carried. The report of John T. Wyld, the agent sent by the government to the West Indies to report on trade relations, was presented. Mr. Wyld says that the steamers plying between New York and the West Indies have succeeded in building up a vast trade, while Canada is without a single steamer engaged in direct communication with the West Indies. He says the merchants of Porto Rico expressed a desire for more regularity in receiving fish supplies in Nova Scotia. The ports of Yarmouth, Lunenburg and Halifax carry on a large trade with Porto Rico by means of sailing craft. Mr. Wyld says: "I do not suppose it would suit the shippers from Lunenburg to send their cargoes in steamers from Halifax, but the opportunity might sometimes be used. To those engaged in the trade in Halifax with their own crafts such a change, if made, of doing business would doubtless cause inconvenience, but the change from sailing vessels to steamers has been made in other countries." Mr. Wyld says that, in addition to fish, flour, cheese, wire fencing, apples, beans, potatoes and hams could be shipped to Porto Rico with profit. The government of Jamaica refused to grant any subsidy to a steamship line, as no subsidy is given to the lines plying to the United States, but the suggestion is made that the duties upon Canadian products might be reduced if West Indian fruits were admitted free into Canada. Some of the large receivers of cargoes at Jamaica from Nova Scotia are reported adverse to steam communication, but Mr. Wyld recommends that a subsidy be granted for a line of steamers between Halifax and Kingston, Jamaica, calling at Santiago and Cienfuegos, voyages to be made every three weeks.

The committee on privileges met on Friday and discussed the Queens election case. The sub-committee reported up without comment a large number of precedents bearing on the case, which were distributed on printed slips. McCarthy reviewed these precedents in an elaborate argument, maintaining that the Queens case was one for the courts and not for the house. He moved accordingly that the house do not deal with the matter, but that the question be left to the courts to decide. Davies argued against the motion, taking a different view of the precedents. He said that parliament had not divested itself of interlopers. It might be expedient to deal with a controverted election in some circumstances, but this was not a case of that kind. Here the house was compelled to act in order to preserve its own dignity. He would support the motion or resolution moved by Mr. Skinner in the house. Mills (Bothwell) followed in the same terms, seeing great dangers in the adoption of the resolution. The minister of justice replied. He could not see where the line was to be drawn if it were decided that this house should undertake to amend election returns. If the house inquired into returning officers, it must deal with the actions of deputy returning officers. The right to deal with this question implies the right to deal with all matters connected with elections, and deprives the controverted election courts of jurisdiction. Weldon (St. John) moved an amendment to McCarthy's motion, being the same as Skinner's first resolution in the house. He argued that the case was a question of privilege of parliament, and parliament could always deal with questions of privilege. After remarks by McCarthy a vote was taken on Weldon's amendment, which was lost—18 to 13. Edgar moved an amendment to the effect that the house has yet a right to correct election returns which were false, as showing a wrong summing up of returns, etc., and these principles apply to the Queens County case. Lost on the same division. Casgrain moved an amendment that the returning officer acted

beyond his power, and that he be summoned to the bar of the house to answer the charge. Ruled out of order as an amendment. McCarthy's motion was then carried by the same division, whereupon Casgrain moved his resolution as a substantial motion. Objection was taken by the minister of justice on the ground that a hearing should take place first, and the delivery of judgment afterwards. McCarthy proposed to amend by affirming that whereas the document shows the conduct of returning officer Dunn requires explanation, therefore the committee recommend he be summoned to the bar of the house to explain his action. This motion was adopted after some confused discussion, and the secretary was instructed to report accordingly.

Mr. Foster introduced a bill to amend the act respecting sick and distressed seamen.

A resolution providing money to build the Oxford and New Glasgow railway was passed through committee.

Mr. Wilson, of Elgin, in moving for correspondence in relation to the claims of veterans, who fought on the side of the crown during the rebellion of 1837-38, for pensions or gratuities claims, contended that if anybody was to be rewarded, it should be the men who fought on the rebels' side. The veterans were supported by Messrs. Purcell, Scriver, Hickey, Dennison, Taylor, White, Somerville, and Brehard. Mr. Jones said that the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick should not be called upon to pay any share of the pensions proposed to be given to the men who fought in a civil war in the old provinces of Canada. Mr. Blake said the veterans should present their claims to the governments of Ontario and Quebec. The motion was carried, and a number of other motions for returns were passed.

COMMERCIAL.

The advent of settled fine weather has given a decided impulse to business generally, and trade has assumed a much more active tone, though the delay in the announcement of tariff charges continues to work some injurious effect. There has been a considerable influx of country buyers, while travelling salesmen have generally sent in satisfactory orders. The general feeling in mercantile circles continues to be one of confidence, and the indications point to an active trade all around. Remittances are gradually improving.

On Tuesday last the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick appointed Hon. D. McLellan, Provincial Secretary, Hon. E. McLeod, ex Attorney-General, and Mr. J. G. Taylor, of the Halifax Banking Company at St. John, liquidators of the Maritime Bank, and they are to try to fish something out of that most disreputable wreck.

Among the more recent exposures of the peculiar methods in which R. A. & J. Stewart did business is the fact that they have been obtaining the disbursement bills of their ships. As a rule the captain of a vessel is supposed to furnish one of these bills at each port at which he calls, which he fills up and signs as master. The Stewarts, however, who are well-known as "the wreckers of the Maritime Bank," had a most ingenious method of their own in procuring these disbursement bills. They were not satisfied with one bill for each port, but they actually demanded and, at least in some cases, obtained half a dozen, as is shown by the evidence given by Captain Charles E. Hault, of the steamship "G. W. Jones," taken in the U. S. District Court at New Orleans on the 16th of April last. He testified that being ordered to do so by a telegram from R. A. & J. Stewart, he purchased when in New York six forms of exchange, signed them in blank as master of the steamer, and sent them in that condition to the St. John people. It is easy to infer that this departure from all customary commercial usage was not intended to further any honest purpose. The mere facts that so many were called for and that they were in blank, that is that no amounts were filled in by the captain, show conclusively that a swindle was deliberately planned and carried out. The entire business of this firm was one continued course of systematized robbery, not only of the Maritime Bank, which they effectually fleeced of much more than double its entire capital, but of everyone else with whom they came in contact.

Another recent bad failure in St. John was that last week of Messrs. Thomas R. Jones & Co., dry goods merchants. They have gone under for \$166,000 of direct liabilities, and show nominal assets amounting to \$160,000. They made an offer of 62½ cents on the dollar at four, eight, twelve and sixteen months without security, but the creditors preferred to investigate the true state of affairs before accepting this offer. Some of the creditors are very dubious of the firm's ability to pay so large a dividend as 62½ per cent, and most of them demand security. Another large St. John dry goods concern is reported to be in difficulties, with little hope of averting a formal failure. In fact all lines of trade appear to be in a very bad condition in the neighboring city, and it is well at this juncture that the business relations between Halifax and St. John are not more intimate than they are.

The following are the assignments and business changes in this province during the past week:—H. B. Ward, saw mill, Canning, burnt out; Mrs. N. Banks, general store, Barrington, sold out to Alfred Banks; Fortune & McMillan, general store, Sydney, dissolved, Joseph McMillan continues at Sydney, and Thos. F. Fortune at Low Point; Morrison & Musgrave, Comm., Halifax, registered co-partnership; Scott & Brown, Comm., Halifax, registered co-partnership; Thos. Rutherford, general store, River Hebert, sold out to A. E. Greenfield; F. Mumford & Sons, foundry and machinists, Dartmouth, burnt out, total loss, insurance light; Wm. H. Nickerson, general store, Port Clyde, assigned to H. H. Whittier; E. Steadman & Son, general store and woodenware, Mill Village, dissolved; Fenwick & Whitman, grocers, Digby, dissolved, J. N. Whitman continues and liquidates; Robt. D. Rico, grocer, New Glasgow, selling off.