

out any tenders being asked for, and in a way to prevent Canadian packers receiving any benefit from it; and this firm which has communicated with me declares it possible only to produce the goods and sell them to the Government at the same prices, but even at lower prices than they can be supplied for. I therefore wish to ask the Government if such a contract has been given, or rather if the article I have read is true in effect or not.

The PRIME MINISTER. I have received no notice of this matter, and I am sorry the hon. gentleman did not communicate with me, because I might have been able to give him some information. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will hand me the paper from which he read.

Mr. QUINN. Certainly. I may say in explanation that I received it only a few minutes before the House opened.

INQUIRIES RESPECTING RETURNS.

Mr. McALISTER. I wish to draw the attention of the Postmaster General to the fact that an order of the House was passed for correspondence and papers relating to Oak Bay Mills post office. When will this return be brought down?

Mr. MONK. I desire to call attention to the dilatoriness of the Government in bringing down returns. Two returns were ordered to be brought down by the Department of Public Works on 15th February last. I think those returns will be very short. One has reference to the wharf at Pointe Claire and the other called for the report of an engineer connected with some survey at Ste. Genevieve. These returns cannot be more than two or three pages at the outside. As we are now considering the Estimates, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Public Works to these matters. Short returns were also called for on 14th March, two from the Department of Public Works and two from the Department of Militia. I trust that these returns will be brought down before we proceed with the Estimates.

Mr. DAVIN. Did the Minister of Public Works remember to make inquiries respecting the Edmonton bridge?

WORKS ON THE RIVER STE. ANNE.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) I wish to ask the Minister of Public Works a question. It is in connection with the protection works which are to be carried out on the River Ste. Anne, for which an appropriation of \$5,000 was voted last session? In reply to a question which I asked him last session, the hon. Minister of Public Works informed me that the matter was under consideration. As I do not see any appropriation in the Estimates which were brought down this year, I should like to know what action is to be taken in this regard?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). (Translation.) The matter is still under consideration.

IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM UNITED STATES.

Mr. MARTIN. Is the Minister of Customs aware that a large number of American horses are being taken into the Northwest and Alberta at very low valuations? I find from a letter the following:—

Americans are rushing horses in here entered at \$10 per head, on which they pay but \$2 duty. This is a manifest injustice, as we cannot send a horse into the United States under \$50 duty. * * * Three thousand have already come in, and 10,000 are soon to follow.

I would ask the Minister of Customs if he is aware that those horses are entered at this new valuation?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Representations of a nature similar to that have been made to the department on several different occasions formerly, and they have been renewed lately. Some time ago the department took action and we wrote to our collectors asking them to ascertain the facts known to them in connection with the matter. It is engaging the attention of the department, and has been for some little time.

ELECTORAL FRANCHISE ACT.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 16) to repeal the Electoral Franchise Act and to further amend the Dominion Elections Act.

(In the Committee.)

On section 3,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). I beg to move that after the word "Canada" in the 16th line, sub-paragraph 3, the following words be added:—

And in the province of Prince Edward Island means the election of an Assemblyman.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). That is because they have two different franchises there.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. CLANCY. In subsection (a) of section 3, the hon. gentleman will see that it refers to an electoral district of the House of Commons. Now, the provincial lists are prepared for provincial electoral divisions, and that cannot in the province of Ontario be the same. Has the hon. gentleman made provision to meet that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In section 7, I have endeavoured to provide for the emergency the hon. gentleman suggests.