

with which to operate this section of the canal.

2. By the chief engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals.

3. Mr. McLeod was instructed to go over the ground to make an examination of the two routes, and report thereon his views as to which route was the best, and make an estimate of the cost of each, viz.,—Port Hope and via Trenton.

4. The instructions were given by the chief engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals.

RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

1. What are the names of the members of the Railway Commission ?

2. What positions did the members of said commission fill when appointed ?

3. What salary did they severally receive immediately before their appointment ?

4. What salaries are they to receive as commissioners ?

5. Are any of the said commissioners financially interested in any of the railways in Canada, by being the owners of stocks, bonds, or other railway securities ?

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals) :

1. The names of the members of the Railway Commission are :—The Hon. A. G. Blair, the Hon. M. E. Bernier, Professor James Mills.

2. The positions filled by each member of the commission when appointed :—Mr. Blair had no official position since his resignation as Minister of Railways and Canals on July 12th, 1903. Mr. Bernier had retired a few days before his appointment, from the position of Minister of Inland Revenue. Professor Mills, President Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, Guelph, Ontario.

3. Salary received by each member of the commission immediately before their appointment :—We have no information that is not in possession of the public generally.

4. The salaries which the commissioners are receiving, are the salaries that are fixed by law.

5. We are informed by the commissioners that not one of them is directly or indirectly interested in any Canadian railways as the owner of stock, bonds or other securities in such railways.

RE R. B. NORTON & CO.

Mr. LEFURGEY—by Mr. Taylor—asked :

1. In the Auditor General's Report for 1901-2, volume 2, part 2, folio W-334, under the heading Prince Edward Island Railway, the following item appears :—'R. B. Norton & Co., \$100.'

2. What official of the government ordered said goods ?

3. To whom were the goods delivered, and who received payment for same ?

Hon. Mr. EMMERSON.

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals) :

1. This sum of \$100 is composed of \$90 for two fifteen ton jack screws purchased from A. O. Norton, of Coaticook, P.Q., and \$10 for plate glass purchased from R. B. Norton and Co., of Charlottetown, P.E.I.

2. These goods were ordered by Mr. G. A. Sharp, superintendent and Mr. Hodgson, storekeeper of the Prince Edward Island Railway.

3. The goods were delivered to Mr. Sharp and to Mr. Hodgson, and payment was made to A. O. Norton, of Coaticook, P.Q., and to R. B. Norton and Company, of Charlottetown, P.E.I., respectively.

FLAG ON PARLIAMENT BUILDING.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called I would like to have an explanation from the government in regard to a small incident to which some newspapers and people have attached some importance. I noticed on the day of the opening of parliament as well as to-day, which is St. Patrick's day, that the Canadian flag which used to be put up on the tower of the parliament building has been replaced by a Union Jack. I would like to know why the old flag that has been used in Canada ever since confederation should be laid aside.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). I am sorry to say that I cannot satisfy to-day the rather fastidious curiosity of my hon. friend, but I will make inquiry and try to give him an explanation upon another day.

Mr. BOURASSA. Perhaps the British Empire League has something to do with it.

Hon. JAMES SUTHERLAND (Minister of Public Works). I may explain to the gentleman (Mr. Bourassa) that the flag hitherto flown on the parliament building has been what is known as the Canadian Merchant Marine flag. It is not the national flag in any other sense. The national flag, as we understand it for this purpose, is the Union Jack. Many complaints have reached the department on previous occasions that the flag floating over the parliament buildings was not the authorized flag for that purpose, and when we were buying a new flag the one which was bought, in accordance with the custom of Canada and of all portions of the empire throughout the world, was the one authorized for the purpose.

Mr. BOURASSA. I know that the red ensign is the merchant marine flag but I know it has always been used in this country—

Hon. Mr. SUTHERLAND. Not at all.

Mr. BOURASSA—as being the special colonial flag to which we have added the escutcheon of confederation. It has always been used on the building.