

GALLICIAN SETTLERS.

Mr. DAVIN. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to bring to the attention of the Minister of the Interior a report that appears in "Le Manitoba" of 2nd February, from the Rev. R. P. Page, who arrived the day before in Winnipeg from his mission among the Gallicians established in the neighbourhood of Yorkton. He reports that they are in a state of the greatest destitution and are without the necessaries of life. The report is in French, but I can summarize it by saying that Mr. Page gives the idea that these people are in a state of want. He says that the attention of the Minister of the Interior has been called to this, and I should like to know from the Minister whether the report, which is very serious, as to the condition of these people is well-founded, and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The Immigration Commissioner at Winnipeg has full instructions from me to take such measures as may be necessary to prevent any destitution amongst these people. An officer of the department is stationed at Yorkton who is especially acquainted with every family among the Gallicians settled there, and he has the matter under his personal supervision. I think it quite impossible that the report which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) refers to, can be correct, but I will take immediate steps to have inquiry made.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. DAVIN. I should like to ask the Prime Minister, whether the rumour which is now widespread, that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) has been promised the appointment of Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories, is correct?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The rumour to which my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) alludes cannot be widespread, because it never reached me.

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AT SKAGWAY AND DYEA.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, whether he is in a position to make any communication to the House in regard to the question of the customs arrangements in force at Skagway and Dyea? The right hon. gentleman said he would give us the information as early as he possibly could.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not in a position to give the information to-day, but I affirm what I stated the other day, that we expect to be

in a position to make such a statement at a very early date.

THE CANADIAN YUKON RAILWAY CONTRACT.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask whether my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) expects to lay on the Table of the House to-morrow, the Mann-Mackenzie contract for the construction of the railway?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Yes.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. In connection with that subject it would be very interesting if we could have an estimate; if only a probable estimate, but the most correct estimate that can be given, of the amount of gold that has been taken out of the Canadian Yukon country, and as far as may be possible, what proportion of that has been taken out by Canadians, and by persons from other countries.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am not sure to what extent we can supply the information just now asked by my hon. friend, but I am sure that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) will do all in his power to give every possible information on that subject.

THE UNITED STATES RELIEF EXPEDITION TO THE YUKON.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Minister of the Interior, or the First Minister, whether he can give any information to the House as to whether the United States Relief Expedition has started into the interior of the country; if so, from what point, and if any United States troops are to accompany it beyond the Canadian frontier.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The information in my possession is to the effect that the United States relief expedition was to sail from some American port for Skagway on or about the first of February. Since then I have received no information. The question of the accompanying of this expedition by United States troops has been a subject of communication between the Government at Washington and the Government here. United States troops under arms will not accompany the expedition over Canadian territory. The question of whether United States troops not under arms shall be allowed to be sent over Canadian territory, for the purpose of more expeditiously reaching American territory on the other side of the 141st meridian, is now under consideration and negotiation between the two Governments.