

the mainland. In reply to Hon. Mr. Tupper,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said an arrangement had been made with the Telegraph Company who held a monopoly on the Island. He had no doubt himself but the Government might run a line along their railway, but they preferred making an arrangement with them by which for a certain amount they had the use of their lines without erecting a telegraph line. The Company had the use of some of the Government offices to do the ordinary work of the neighbourhood. All the Government messages connected with the working of the railway had to be transmitted by this line to Moncton to the head office and thence to Ottawa.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK said it was necessary that all such contracts should be laid on the table of the House.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he had a different opinion; he did not pretend to lay every contract upon the table. The item was carried.

Items \$4,000, agents and contingencies, British Columbia; \$60,000, surveys of land, North-West (including commissions and staff), and \$10,000 for minor revenues, passed without debate.

The Committee then rose and reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

#### SATURDAY SITTINGS.

In reply to a question as to whether the House would sit on Saturday, it being a Roman Catholic *Fête d'Obligation*.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said in a matter of this kind the Government were entirely in the hand of the House, but where there was even one member whose conscience would feel offended at sitting on that day they should not compel him to attend. At all events it was tolerably evident that there was quite a number who, although not opposed to sitting in an emergency, would prefer not to sit to-morrow, and he thought the Government would be consulting the interests of the whole in not asking them to sit to-morrow.

#### INFORMAL QUESTIONS.

Hon. Mr. KIRKPATRICK asked if the Government intended to bring

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE.

down any reports of the engineers of the Pacific Railway this year.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE replied these were in the Public Works Report, which was laid on the table a month ago.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER enquired if there was any information with reference to the Vancouver Island road?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the matter had not come before him yet, and indeed had no connection with the subject at all. It was not a part of the Pacific Railway, and would be a separate question entirely from the discussion which would arise on the estimates. The matters which would come up on the estimates in connection with the construction of the road, building of telegraph lines, and purchasing of rails and everything of that sort it is usual to discuss; but the mere question of policy involved in the correspondence with the British Columbia Government was an entirely separate thing and could be better discussed by itself.

Mr. WRIGHT (Pontiac) asked whether any information would be given with respect to the result of the surveys that had been lately completed on the line of the Georgian Bay branch before that item was discussed.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Oh, certainly?

Mr. BLANCHET—And about the cancellation of the contract?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—These papers have been brought down, and were printed in the newspapers.

In answer to a further question by Mr. Wright of Pontiac, Mr. Mackenzie said the Government would give all the information they possibly could. But they had no report from the Chief Engineer relative to the Georgian Bay branch, because he had not undertaken the survey at all.

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew) said the Hon. Minister of Public Works promised some time ago to announce what steps would be taken with reference to the construction of the Georgian Bay branch, and he asked if that information would be given when the item came up?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—No.