

filled. But in the majority of cases the offices have been abolished.

#### IMMIGRATION AGENT TO IRELAND.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

1. Has Mr. Edward O'Kelly, late of Pembroke, been appointed immigration agent to the North of Ireland?
2. If so, when was he appointed?
3. What salary is he to receive, exclusive of travelling expenses?
4. Is Mr. Kelly a British subject?
5. Has he not been a hotel-keeper at Duluth, Min., U.S.A., and at West Superior, Wis., U.S.A., for a number of years past, and until within a few months previous to his appointment?
6. Was he recommended by Mr. T. Murray, ex-M.P. of Pembroke?
7. Is Mr. Kelly a half-brother of Mr. Murray's?
8. What are Mr. Kelly's duties? Will he keep an office in Ireland, or will he have a roving commission?

The MINISTER OF INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Mr. Edward O'Kelly has been appointed Immigration Agent to Ireland, but not particularly to the North of Ireland. 2. He was appointed on the 1st day of April, 1897. 3. His salary is \$1,800 exclusive of travelling expenses. 4. Mr. O'Kelly is a British subject. 5. So far as the Government is aware Mr. O'Kelly has not been a hotel-keeper at Duluth, nor at West Superior, or any other place. 6. He was recommended by Mr. T. Murray, ex-M.P. of Pembroke and many others, competent to give reliable opinion upon his qualifications. Mr. O'Kelly's recommendations were of the very highest order, and he was appointed exclusively on account of his peculiar qualifications for the immigration work in Ireland which had for some time been entirely neglected under the late Government. Mr. O'Kelly had for over nine years been an official valuator and commissioner for the Imperial Government under the Irish Land Act, and holds the highest testimonials from persons of prominence as to character and capacity. His great knowledge of the country to which he has been commissioned and of its inhabitants, and the experience which he has gained in the employ of the Imperial Government is expected to be of especial value in his work, and the Government considers itself most fortunate in being able to secure the services of a gentleman who is so well equipped for the important work which is placed in his charge. 7. Mr. O'Kelly is not a half-brother of Mr. Murray. 8. His duties are to endeavour to procure the best available class of settlers for Canada. He may or may not have an office from time to time, but his position is that of a travelling agent.

#### COAL TRADE IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. GILLIES asked :

1. Does the despatch in the Halifax "Morning Chronicle" of 11th December, 1894, represent cor-

rectly the utterance of Mr. W. S. Fielding, the then Provincial Secretary and Premier of the province of Nova Scotia and now Minister of Finance, who in company with Mr. L. H. Davies, now Minister of Marine and Fisheries, at a public meeting at Sydney on the 10th of December, 1894, is reported in said despatch as having stated as follows :—

"Referring to the coal trade, he said the Liberal party would not preach one doctrine in Cape Breton and another in the rest of the Dominion. If the coal business could not be carried on without protection, then it is better not to carry it on at all : protection was not a necessity for its welfare."

2. Does the report in the Montreal "Herald" of the 13th March, 1897, represent the Minister of Finance correctly when waited upon at Montreal on the 12th March by representatives of the coal interest who urged upon him the necessity of maintaining if not increasing the present duty on coal? The Minister is reported as having stated as follows :—

"If, however, your view is correct and it turns out that the United States duty is raised to a high figure, then we shall claim and exercise the right to revise our views respecting the Canadian duty and we shall feel bound to impose a duty not only on bituminous, but also on anthracite coal, which at present comes into our markets from the States free of duty."

If reported correctly in both cases, how does the Minister of Finance reconcile these two conflicting statements?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I do not remember the despatch in the Halifax "Chronicle," to which the hon. gentleman refers, and I am not in a position to make any statement respecting the accuracy of a report which I have not seen for several years. I have advocated the free exchange of coal between Canada and the United States, but otherwise I have not advocated free coal. Whether speaking to the coal miners of Nova Scotia or to the people of other sections of the country I have always held that the article of coal could not be considered alone, but must be dealt with in connection with others, with regard to the interests of the Dominion as a whole. The words quoted from the Montreal "Herald" are a correct report of a single sentence of my Montreal remarks.

#### L'ARDOISE BREAKWATER, N.S.

Mr. GILLIES asked :

Is it the intention of the Government during the present session to provide in the Estimates for the repairs and extension of the L'Ardoise Breakwater, county of Richmond, Nova Scotia?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Mr. Tarte). This subject is under consideration.

#### PROPOSED SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAY COMPANIES.

Mr. LANGELIER asked :

Whether it is the intention of the Government to disallow the Act passed at the last session of