

think it was first called for the 4th of March ; and then it was postponed to the 25th of March. Probably there was more than a scintilla of superstition in their minds with regard to the ides of March. Now we are expected to see in the passing of this Franchise Bill the fulfilment of all their promises. We are told that the law is fulfilled in the one word love ; but this Government expect to fulfil the law and to carry out all their promises in regard to the tariff and every other measure advocated by them for the past eighteen years, by passing this Franchise Bill. If any improvement can be made in the existing Franchise Act, by all means let it be done ; but there is time enough for that. There are a couple of years before the Government in which they can attend to it. But if the Government had a proper appreciation of the business interests of this country, the first thing they would do would be to try to put in practice the theories in regard to the tariff which they have preached into the ears of the country for the last eighteen years. To say the least of it, I think it is rather bad for them to jeopardize the best interests of the country by not submitting a tariff Bill at an earlier period. It is nearly a year since they attained power. One session is past ; another session they are wasting away, and still the tariff is kept in the background. I think the business interests of this country should be attended to before the political exigencies of any party ; but the political exigencies of the Liberal party, especially in Nova Scotia, have been made to do duty on this occasion. I did not rise for the purpose of making a speech, but merely for the purpose of correcting my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I know that he only made the statements he did in his eagerness to bolster up a cause that he feels is weak.

Mr. McMILLAN moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 21st April, 1897.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MAIL CONTRACTS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. MILLS asked :

What are the different mail routes and mail contracts now existing between the town of An-

napolis Royal and the town of Liverpool, in the counties of Annapolis and Queen's respectively? What is the name of each contractor and his bondsmen? What is the length of each route? What is each contract price, and whether daily, semi-weekly or tri-weekly?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). I must ask the hon. gentleman to put a motion on the paper for that. It is rather a voluminous return.

DEPOSITS FOR CANAL TENDERS.

Mr. CLANCY asked :

1. What are the different amounts of deposits asked for with the different tenders for the Iroquois section of the Galops Canal, the enlargement of Farran's Point Canal, the Cardinal section of the Galops Canal, and the North Channel between Galops and Prescott?

2. Are the amounts of these deposits larger than the amounts asked by the department formerly to be deposited with tenders on works of similar magnitude?

3. Has the department adopted a new course in asking for larger deposits on the above sections of the St. Lawrence Canals?

4. Is it the intention of the Department of Railways and Canals in calling for tenders for all future work to insist on such proportionately large deposits?

5. Has there been any Order in Council passed determining the amounts of the deposits to be made with tenders for the enlargement of the St. Lawrence Canals?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. The amount of deposit asked for the Iroquois section of the Galops Canal is \$50,000; for the enlargement of Farran's Point Canal, \$27,500; for the Cardinal section, \$75,000; for the North Channel, \$37,500. 2. No. 3. No. 4. For work under \$250,000 the amount of deposit required will be 10 per cent; over that sum, 5 per cent. 5. I may say that tenders were asked during the late Administration requiring 10 per cent deposit with tenders, and having been so adopted as the usage in the department, it was continued until, on complaints being made and the matter being inquired into, it was concluded desirable to recur to the former system of requiring only 5 per cent deposit on tenders over \$250,000. We now require only 5 per cent deposit where the amount involved in the contract does not fall under \$250,000.

ISLANDS IN THE ST. LAWRENCE.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville) asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to dispose by sale of any of the islands in the Upper St. Lawrence during the present year? If so, will such islands be sold by private sale or public auction?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). It is not the intention of the Government to dispose, by sale, of any of the islands in the Upper St. Lawrence during the present year. The whole subject is under the consideration of the Government.