

RAILWAY BRIDGE AT QUEBEC.

Mr. LAURIER moved for :

Copy of the report of Collingwood Schreiber, Esq., upon survey made by him, of the River St. Lawrence immediately opposite and in the vicinity of the city of Quebec, for the purpose of ascertaining whether it was possible to build a railway bridge there.

He said: I desire to ask the Minister of Public Works if the report of Mr. Schreiber will be brought down on the motion of the hon. member for Quebec Centre (Mr. Langelier)? If so, my motion will be without any object.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Let the hon. gentleman make his motion, and let the two go together.

Mr. LANGELIER. May I press on the Minister of Public Works the importance of bringing down the report as early as possible. At the next meeting of the Railway Committee the Bill to continue the charter of the company, which was formed some years ago for the construction of the bridge, is to come up, and it is of the highest importance for the consideration of the Bill that Mr. Schreiber's report should be before the Committee. Sir Charles Tupper stated in his speech delivered at Quebec that Mr. Schreiber had made a favourable report on the bridge, and it will, no doubt, have considerable influence on the Committee, in considering the Bill for the continuance of the charter, and also, I hope, with the Government when they are called on to give a subsidy to that company.

Motion agreed to.

SHOALS AT ST. JEAN DESCHAILLONS.

Mr. RINFRET (translation) moved for :

Copies of all correspondence, letters, reports and paper writings of every description, respecting the dredging of the River St. Lawrence, and the lifting and removal of the boulders from the shoals of St. Jean Deschaillons.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. (Translation.) I wish to ask the hon. member if he really desires to obtain all the information mentioned in his motion. The motion has the following: "All correspondence, letters, reports and paper writings of every description respecting the dredging of the River St. Lawrence." I believe the hon. member could restrict his request to the latter part of his motion, for the information wanted in the other part covers the whole of the River St. Lawrence, and it would be a work of several months to prepare such.

Mr. RINFRET. (Translation.) I believe there is an error in the translation of my motion. What I mean to ask for is the papers relating to the dredging of the river and removal of boulders on the shoal only.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. (Translation.) I would suggest to the hon. member to strike off from his motion the words "the dredging of the River St. Lawrence" after the word "respecting."

Mr. RINFRET. (Translation.) I have no objection to the striking off of those words.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

DOMINION AID TO RAILWAYS.

Mr. McMULLEN moved for :

Return showing: 1. The names of the several railways in the Dominion to which Dominion aid has been granted, except the Canadian Pacific main line and Soo Branch;

2. The province within which the said railway, in whole or in part, is located, and if located in two or more provinces, the number of miles in each; 3. The county or counties through which the said lines run in each province; 4. The amount of money paid to each up to the 1st January, 1891; 5. The railways built in the Dominion by the Dominion since Confederation, excepting the main line of the Intercolonial and main line of the Canadian Pacific; 6. The province within which built; 7. The entire cost of each line built in each province, including equipment; 8. The entire sum spent up to 1st January last, on the construction of Dominion roads in each province, excepting the Intercolonial main line and Canadian Pacific main line.

He said: There has been considerable agitation, more particularly in the Province of Ontario, with regard to a refund being made to sections of the province which have built railways at the entire cost of the people of those sections and of the Ontario Government. A very large deputation came here during the session and waited on the late First Minister and the Minister of Finance for the purpose of presenting their claims for a refund of a portion of the money so expended. The railway statistics issued each year do not contain the information I desire to obtain by this motion, hence the necessity of asking for the return. The deputation that waited on the Ministers was a very large and influential one. But there were a great many places represented that should not have been represented, such, for instance, as towns along the line of the Grand Trunk, which never contributed a dollar towards the building of that road, because no municipal bonuses were granted, and the towns sold out their stock at par value. Other places were represented that had already, under the present policy of the Dominion Government, received aid for competing lines, such as Kingston, Guelph and many other towns. I consider these places do not stand in the same relation to this important question as other sections that have never received a dollar from the Dominion treasury towards the construction of their roads. It is an important question, and the people of the section from which I come, and also the people in the Counties of Bruce and Huron, and a portion of the County of Grey, will not rest satisfied with anything short of receiving some sort of return for the enormous sums spent on railways, while railways have been built in other portions of the Dominion, in some cases entirely at the cost of the Dominion and in others largely subsidized from the Dominion treasury. It is quite clear to anyone who will investigate the claim presented, that it is a just and equitable one. The First Minister very generously and kindly promised to give the subject his serious and careful consideration. Unfortunately he is not here to do that now. Last year, when I brought the question before the House he stated that, if a case was presented to the Government during this session, they would take it up and consider it. A deputation came here for that purpose. The First Minister's reply was in the direction of giving some encouragement at least, although no immediate relief, but he promised the Government would give the question careful consideration, and if some scheme was devised whereby those sections that had been called on to provide for themselves the necessary accommodation and to contribute such large sums of money could be recouped in some way, the Government would consider it. The object of this resolution is to enable those sections, and all other sections, to ascertain the extent to which the people have contri-