

and have any expenditures therefor been yet incurred or any payments therefor been made?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). Arrangements have been concluded for the holding of militia camps in September next, in accordance with general order, a copy of which I lay on the Table of the House. No expenditure except what is absolutely necessary has been incurred, and no payments have been made.

Mr. FOSTER. I am to understand, then, that some expenditures have been incurred?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Authorized, yes.

THE SONGHEES INDIAN RESERVE.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Has the Government received any information as to the proceedings of the commission appointed by the late Government to inquire into the best means of coming to a satisfactory settlement with the Indians on the Songhees Indian Reserve?

2. If not, is it the intention of the Government to instruct their commissioner to report forthwith?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). In a despatch of the 31st January last, the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia transmitted a minute of his Executive Council embodying a resolution passed by the legislative assembly of that province during the then ensuing session, which resolution requested that the question of the removal of the Songhees tribe of Indians from their reserve to a more suitable locality be referred to a special commission. By an Order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council of the 1st April last a commissioner was named to act for the Dominion Government. By a despatch of the 3rd June last from the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia the Dominion Government was apprised of the appointment of a co-commissioner; but it was at the same time intimated that the definition of the scope of the proposed special commission, as set forth in the aforesaid Order in Council of the 1st April, was not sufficiently clear. No instructions were given to the commissioners named by the Governments to proceed, and consequently no report has been received from them. The question of defining the scope of the proposed commission is at present under consideration, and no instructions can be sent to the Dominion commissioner until an understanding is come to between the two Governments as to the scope of the commission.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to ask Parliament during the present session to grant a subsidy to a railway running from Bute Inlet, northward? If not, why not?

Is it the intention of the Government to ask

Mr. FOSTER.

Parliament during the present session to grant a subsidy to a railway running from Nanaimo to Comox, and thence northward? If not, why not?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). It is not the intention of the Government to ask Parliament to vote any railway subsidies during the present session.

THE VICTORIA AND CARMANAH POINT TELEGRAPH LINE.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to take steps at once to improve the telegraph line from Victoria to Carmanah Point, either by taking the line by another route or by doing more clearing on the present one?

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

HATCHERIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

Is it the intention of the Government to erect a new fish hatchery on the Fraser River, and also one on the Skeena River this year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). No. Steps are being taken toward the selection of sites for hatcheries on both rivers.

PUBLIC WORKS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Is it the intention of the Government to ask Parliament this session for the necessary funds to erect the following works in British Columbia:—

(1.) Fog alarm at entrance to Victoria Harbour?

(2.) Light beacon on Fiddle Reef?

(3.) Lighthouse at entrance to Vancouver Narrows?

(4.) Light on Sisters Island?

(5.) Pole light in Chemainus Harbour?

(6.) Light beacon on Botchie's Ledge?

2. If so, is it the intention of the Government to have those works carried out this year, at once?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). The necessity for the erecting and constructing of these public works to which the hon. gentleman's question refers has been lately pressed on the Government by the members from British Columbia, and also by memorials which we have received from Messrs. Templeman & Milne, of Victoria. The arguments used in favour of the construction of many of these public works are very strong, and I am in hopes that when the hon. gentleman sees the Supplementary Estimates his heart will be somewhat gladdened—perhaps not as much as he expects.