

right here, than I do with the conclusions the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, propounded; not that I disagree generally with his views, but in putting so much blame on the Minister of the Interior as he has done I think that he has made a little mistake. I think the suggestion I made to the right hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) is correct, that the appointment of the present occupant of the Minister of the Interior is a just reward for his silence.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 5:10 p. m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 7th February, 1889.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MEMBER INTRODUCED.

Lieut.-Gen. JOHN WIMBURN LAURIE, Member for the Electoral District of Shelburne, introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir John Thompson.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, as follows:—

STANLEY OF PRESTON.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, an approved Minute of Council, appointing the Right Honorable Sir John Macdonald, G.C.B., President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, the Honorable Sir Hector Langevin, K.C.M.G., Minister of Public Works, the Honorable John Costigan, Minister of Inland Revenue, and the Honorable George Eulas Foster, Minister of Finance, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons, as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the 13th Chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, intitled: "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

OTTAWA, 6th February, 1889.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 12) to provide for a regular Ferry between the city of Quebec and the town of Lévis.—(Mr. Choquette.)

Bill (No. 13) to require the owners of elevators and hoists to guard against accidents.—(Mr. Madill.)

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE ON THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. CHOQUETTE asked, Whether any petitions, letters or other documents have been forwarded to the Government, or to the Department of Railways, respecting the appointment of a superintendent, able to speak and write the French language, for that section of the Intercolonial Railway which traverses the Province of Quebec; and if so, by whom were such documents or petitions forwarded, when they were received, and what answer was made thereto?

Mr. BOWELL. No such letters, petitions or documents have been received by the Government or by the department.

RIVER RICHELIEU SURVEY.

Mr. GIGAULT asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to complete the surveying and sounding oper-

ations still required on the River Richelieu, to permit of a chart being prepared for the guidance of masters of vessels navigating that river between the International Boundary line and the St. Lawrence?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. In answer to the hon. member, I may say that the Department of Public Works has made no survey of the river with the view of preparing a chart to be put in the hands of the public. The Department of Railways has made a survey from the frontier line to St. Johns, with the view of building a canal. From Chambly down to Sorel there are buoys indicating the channel.

REPORTS OF HOMESTEAD INSPECTORS IN MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. McMULLEN. When my motion for copies of all inspections and reports made by homestead inspectors in Manitoba and North-West Territories from 1st January, 1887, to 1st January, 1889, was before the House yesterday, the Minister of Interior made a statement with regard to the probable cost of bringing down such return. In the face of that statement I am quite willing to withdraw the motion; but I would ask the hon. Minister whether it would be possible for me to be permitted the privilege of examining these returns in the Department of the Interior. If I were permitted that privilege I could gather the information I require.

Mr. DEWDNEY. Of course I have no objection to that being done by the hon. gentleman. I shall be glad to give him all information in the office. Some of the reports may be at Winnipeg, but any information we possess I shall be glad to give to the hon. gentleman.

Motion withdrawn.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE.

Mr. EDGAR moved for:

Copies of the resolutions passed at the conference held in 1887, at the city of Quebec, of delegates from the several Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba, and of all papers and correspondence relating thereto.

He said: In October, 1887, a conference was held at the city of Quebec, composed of delegates from all Provinces of the Dominion, except Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. The matters which were chiefly discussed by the delegates on that occasion were the relations between the Dominion and the Provinces, more especially with regard to their legal powers, their executive functions and their provincial affairs. They arrived at the conclusion, I believe, that our written constitution, embodied in the British North America Act, after 20 years of trial, could be improved in several particulars by amendment. The result of their deliberations was embodied in a series of resolutions, which, I understand, have been forwarded to the Government of the Dominion. The Government have not, I think, yet chosen to lay those resolutions before the House; but they are so important that the House ought to be placed at the earliest possible moment in a position to judge of them, by being placed in possession of the same information as was in the hands of the Executive. If the motion is adopted, I hope the Government will lay the papers on the Table without delay.

Motion agreed to.

RETURN ORDERED.

Return showing the receipts by the Trustees of the various town sites in the North-West Territories, from sales of lands and otherwise; and, also, of all expenditures in connection therewith, since the year 1882.—(Mr. Davin.)

REPORT.

Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs, for the year ending 30th June, 1888.—(Mr. Dewdney.)