

## MAIL SUBSIDIES TO STEAMSHIPS.

Mr. ARMSTRONG asked:

1. What is the total amount paid by this government each year, in the past five years, towards mail subsidies to steamships?

2. What are the names of the countries served, the names of steamers and owners and the steamship subventions?

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). The information could most conveniently be brought down in the form of a return, and I would suggest that the hon. gentleman make a motion.

Question allowed to stand as a notice of motion.

## IMPORTATIONS OF GERMAN GOODS.

Mr. ARMSTRONG asked:

1. What action has this government taken in regard to German goods coming into Canada through England and being sold here under the British preference?

2. Has the government any agents now in England making an investigation of this question? If not, what is the reason an investigation has not been held in regard to this matter?

3. What action, if any, has the government taken towards improving the trade relations between Canada and Germany?

Hon. WM. PATERSON (Minister of Customs).

1. The government has taken action by the establishment of regulations, to prevent German goods coming into Canada through England and being sold here under the British preference, and by seizure proceedings under the customs laws when goods improperly entered for duty in Canada under the general tariff or under the British preferential tariff are found to be of German origin.

2. Investigations have been and are being made in England by Canadian trade commissioners and by the secretary of the High Commissioner.

3. The trade relations between Canada and Germany are as yet under consideration.

## ABSINTHE AND BRANDY IMPORTATIONS.

Mr. ARMSTRONG asked:

1. What was the total amount of absinthe imported into Canada in the year 1906, and the value of the same, with the amount of duty collected?

2. What was the total amount of eau-de-vie imported into Canada in the year 1906, and the value of same, with the amount of duty collected?

Hon. WM. PATERSON (Minister of Customs).

1. For the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1906, 3,082 gallons imported absinthe were entered for duty; value, \$4,470; duty collected thereon \$7,396.80.

2. During the same period 341,754 gallons imported brandy (and imitations thereof) were entered for duty; value, \$553,102; duty collected thereon \$820,209.60.

## WIRES ACROSS RAILWAY TRACKS.

Mr. BARR asked:

1. What is the number of applications made to the Board of Railway Commissioners for the privilege to cross railway tracks with telephone wires?

2. What was the number of applications granted?

3. What was the number of applications refused?

4. What was the cause of said refusal?

5. What was the date of each application?

6. What date were the said applications granted?

7. What was the length of time from date of said application to the granting of same?

Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways and Canals):

1. The total number of applications made to the board for leave to cross railway tracks with telephone wires covering the period from the 1st February, 1904, to 1st December, 1907, is 1,384.

2. The total number of applications granted over said period from the 1st February, 1904, to the 1st December, 1907, is 1,365.

3. No applications have been refused.

4. This question is answered by number three.

5. To give the date of each separate application will, owing to the large number of applications, require additional time to furnish a complete reply to this question.

6. The answer to number five covers this question also.

7. Provided the applicant complies with the requirements of section 246 of the Railway Act and the rules and regulations of the board, and provided a public hearing is not asked for and the applicant be ready to accept an order in accordance with the 'standard conditions and specifications for telephone crossings' approved by the board, and provided the board's engineer approves of the plan and profile filed, the application should be granted within three weeks from the date of its being received by the secretary of the board. Should, however, a written consent to the crossing be filed on behalf of the railway company whose lines are to be crossed, then an order might issue within a shorter period and in cases of urgency forthwith.

## PORT MAITLAND PIERS.

Mr. LALOR asked:

1. What was the amount of Battle's tender for building piers at Port Maitland?

2. Have there been any extras? If so, what amount?

3. What is the total amount paid for work on piers at Port Maitland?