

and the price paid by private individuals for water rates on property of the same value? 3rd. Whether, before setting up the said apparatus, the Government enquired as to the hygienic quality of the said water of the St. Lawrence at the said place?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I think I must object to the former part of the first question. I do not think the hon. gentleman should have put in the words, "in order to avoid paying the water rates demanded by the Corporation of Quebec." I think that is no portion of the question; it is an argument. The question should be a simple one—whether it is true that the Government have caused apparatus to be set up in order to supply those buildings with water from the St. Lawrence. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether this question should be put in that way.

Mr. SPEAKER. If it is not done in order to avoid paying the water rates, it is not true.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is a reflection to ask whether this was done in order to avoid paying the water rates. I will answer the question in this way: Whether it is true that the Government have caused apparatus to be set up in order to supply the old Custom house and Queen's store with water from the St. Lawrence; to that I say no. I understand that the corporation asked \$500 a year to supply the Custom house with water, and I would not consent to pay that, as I considered it excessive. The estimated value of the properties I do not know; the hon. gentleman as Mayor of Quebec will find that out from his books. The price paid by private individuals for water rates on property of the same value I think will also be found in the books of the corporation. In answer to the third question, as we did not put up the apparatus, I would answer that we did not enquire.

#### NEGOTIATION OF COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

Mr. EDGAR asked, 1st. What papers has the Government relating to the negotiation of commercial treaties, conventions or arrangements in which Canada is interested, and which are covered by the terms of the Address passed by this House on 28th January, 1884? and when will they be brought down? 2nd. Has the British Government agreed to the proposal made to Lord Kimberley by Sir A. T. Galt on the 17th June, 1880, and sanctioned by the Governor General in Council on 26th March, 1881, to the effect that it was the wish of the Canadian Government to be relieved, as soon as it could conveniently be done, of the obligations connected with any treaties affecting trade and commerce entered into between Great Britain and other nations; and the further proposal, similarly made and sanctioned, that it was the desire of the Canadian Government to be informed of the inception of any new treaty, and that in future no stipulation binding upon the commerce of Canada should be introduced into any treaty without reserving to the Canadian Government the option of acceptance or refusal? If the British Government has agreed to such proposal, when was it done, and will all papers connected therewith be laid before the House at an early day? 3rd. Has the Government of Canada, since 26th March, 1881, been relieved of the obligations connected with any treaties affecting trade and commerce previously entered into between Great Britain and other nations? 4th. Has the British Government, since 26th March, 1881, reserved to the Canadian Government the option of acceptance or refusal of all treaties that would bind the commerce of Canada? And if so, with what nations were such treaties made, and what was the action of the Canadian Government as to such acceptance or refusal?

Mr. McLELAN. A return was presented to the House of Commons in reply to an address of the House dated 23rd  
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February, 1883, giving the correspondence connected with the negotiations for commercial arrangements with Servia and other countries. At the same time a communication from the Colonial Office was submitted, stating that as correspondence is never furnished which has reference to negotiations still under discussion without the consent of the foreign power with whom the treaty is being made, it would be necessary to obtain from the Governments of France and Spain their consent to the publication of any correspondence which had taken place on the subject of treaties, and Lord Derby suggested that the placing of such papers on the Table of the Dominion House of Commons should be delayed until the matters under discussion were brought to a final conclusion. It would, therefore, be necessary to obtain the consent of the Imperial Government before the papers referred to in the Address of the 28th January, 1884, could be submitted to the House. Correspondence on the subject has been had with the Imperial Government, but as yet the consent has not been received, and as the negotiations are not yet concluded, it cannot be stated definitely when the Government will be able to bring down the papers now in their possession. With reference to the Order in Council of the 26th March, 1881, the British Government has, in all cases of treaties negotiated since that date, ascertained and acted upon the wish of the Canadian Government to be included in or exempted from the operation of commercial treaties entered into with other nations. This has been done in the cases of Roumania, Equador, Morocco, Egypt and Montenegro, as will be seen by the correspondence in the return before referred to. In the case of Servia, prior to the 26th March, 1881, the request of the Dominion Government to be exempted from the operation of the treaty with that country was attended to, and representations made to the Servian Government of that wish. The High Commissioner has also been in constant communication with the Imperial Government, and has been kept informed as to the progress of all commercial negotiations in which Canada is interested.

#### THE MINING LAW.

Mr. FAIRBANK (for Mr. KAULBACH), asked: Whether it is the intention of the Government to amend the Mining Law during this Session, and if so, if the sum now required to be expended upon a location will be reduced, or the time for such expenditure increased; and if such reduction of sum or extension of time will apply to claims now filed?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). There is no intention of bringing down any legislation on the subject of the mining laws this Session. The whole subject is being considered by the Department in the light of investigations being made on the ground.

#### THE CASE OF LOUIS RIEL.

Mr. LANDRY (Montmagny) moved for:

Copies of correspondence, whether by telegraph or otherwise, between the Government and Drs. Jukes, Valade and Lavell, or any of them, officers of the Government appointed to enquire into the mental condition of Louis Riel.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There is no objection to the motion. All the papers at our disposal will be brought down.

Mr. BLAKE. I hope, after the statements made by the Minister of Justice, some effort will be made to re-obtain possession of those papers which are not just now, but ought to be, at the disposal of the Government. The Minister has stated that the important, vital telegrams had been returned to the physicians, and I trust, therefore, they will be got back again and be included in this return.