

veyed a warning to all foreign vessels whether fishing vessels or not. That was true so far as one particular clause of the warning was concerned; but the whole context of the warning showed plainly what the warning meant. It was a printer's mistake which was discovered within a day or two after the first copy was issued, and those copies were withdrawn and corrected copies substituted. With respect to the instructions for 1887, I think it will strike the minds of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House that it would not be conducive either to the carrying out of our protection of the fisheries during the coming season, or to the present negotiations, that they should be brought down to the House and made a subject for debate. They are special confidential instructions, so far as any new ones are introduced for 1887, and I do not think they ought to be brought down.

Motion withdrawn.

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

On the Order being called—motion to rescind the Standing Orders respecting the election at the commencement of every Parliament of a Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees—(Mr. Fisher).

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will allow that to stand to another day.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What other day?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There will be plenty of opportunity.

Mr. FISHER. Are we likely to have an opportunity, as on Wednesday evening other business is taken up, and on Monday there are very frequently many members absent? It is desirable, of course, to have the motions cleared from the paper. If the hon. gentleman has any particular object in desiring this motion to stand, I will allow it to do so.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Please let it stand.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It will be better to have some understanding as to when it may be reached. It cannot be conveniently reached unless we come to some understanding.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will allow it to be brought up on Thursday.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. When and how will you arrange it?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It will be in a good position, and I will undertake for the majority of the House that the hon. gentleman shall have an opportunity of moving it on Thursday.

Motion allowed to stand.

LANDS SOLD BY CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. WATSON moved for:

Return of all lands sold in the Province of Manitoba by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company up to the 1st of April, 1887.

He said: My reason for moving for this return is that a large quantity of land has been sold by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, that the agreements have not been registered, but that speculators have been allowed to hold the land, which has proved detrimental to the interest of settlement. When an amendment to the Canadian Pacific Railway terms was made last year, a clause was introduced

Mr. ELLIS.

providing that the Company should make a return within a certain number of days of the opening of the Session, of all lands sold by them up to first October of each year; but this return did not apply to lands sold previous to the passing of this Bill. Some municipalities are sending petitions to this House praying that land may be placed in such a shape that taxes can be collected. I think this matter is outside the jurisdiction of this House; but if such a return was made to this House, if the provisions of the Act of last year were carried out, it would enable the municipalities to obtain a list of lands sold during the year, the date of sale and the names of the purchasers, by which they would be able to collect the taxes. For instance, here is the municipality of Argyle in Rock Lake county. They set forth that the Canadian North-West Land Company have 54,240 acres of land upon which local taxes have not been paid, and up to the end of 1886 those lands were assessed, but the taxes remaining unpaid last year amounted to \$4,789.16. These municipalities have been under the impression that all lands held by other parties other than the Canadian Pacific Railway Company were liable to taxation, and they have been levying rates but they found it impossible to collect the taxes, because they cannot find out the particulars of each sale. I am sure that if the information asked for in this return is brought down it will be a great convenience and relief to the municipalities. I would like to add to the motion these words "the name of the purchaser and the date of the sale of such lands."

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. If I recollect aright, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are obliged to give a return of all the lands they have sold and the date of sale. I forget at this moment, however, whether they are obliged to do so of their own motion, or simply when called upon, but I am pretty sure that they are not required to give the names of the purchasers, and if so, we cannot force them to do it because it is not in their Act of incorporation.

Mr. WATSON. The Act passed last year requires them to give the name of the purchaser and the lands sold, but the trouble is that it only applies to the year after the Act was passed, and as a large quantity of land was sold previous to that date, the municipalities have no means of getting at the information.

Motion agreed to.

IRREGULARITIES BY MONTREAL COTTON CO.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant) moved for:

Copies of all reports made to the Customs Department by any of its officers or special agents concerning irregularities committed by the Montreal Cotton Company; also, copies of all correspondence between the Department of Customs and any of its officers or special agents, and copies of all correspondence between the said Department or its officers or special agents and the manager or directors of said company in regard to such irregularities.

Mr. BOWELL. It would be highly inconvenient at the present moment to bring down the papers moved by the hon. gentleman, for the reason that the matter is still under investigation. I may mention, however, for the information of the hon. gentleman and the information of the House, that one of the directors of that company wrote me the other day, stating that other irregularities had been discovered and that he would see that a full report was made of all the facts, and I returned the report to the special officer, to which the hon. gentleman has called attention, to Montreal, in order that a further investigation might take place, so that the Department might be in a position to come to a proper decision on the whole case. I may also mention that many of the reports made by special officers contain information which it would not be in the interests of the revenue, or in the interests of the country, to make public. For instance, they may state