

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Wednesday, 16th March, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

CORRESPONDENCE *re* HAMILTON SMITH.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—I beg to give notice that I will move that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General praying that he will cause to be presented to this Senate copies of all telegrams and letters passing between any members of the government and the High Commissioner relating to Mr. Hamilton Smith and all papers, communications and documents, the contents of which led or induced the government to send such telegrams or letters. It is with reluctance that I rise to give this notice. It will be remembered that on the 18th of last month I moved for some papers which might, I think, have been brought down the very next day. I did so at the instance of the hon. leader of the House. It is treating an hon. member and the Senate with some contempt to allow a month to elapse without bringing down the documents. Those papers are not very important, and are not numerous, and could not be hard to obtain if the department is well managed, and they should have been brought down by this time at least.

DELAYED RETURNS.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER—Before the Orders of the day are called, I should like to ask the Secretary of State if there is any chance of my obtaining the returns which I moved for at the beginning of last session, and again at the beginning of this session. He was kind enough to say, when I asked him this year, that he would use his personal influence to try to secure them. I would like to know whether he has had time to do so or if I may look forward to getting them within a reasonable time?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman intimated to me last year that he would

take an instalment of them, as they were pretty large, and an instalment was brought down, and I presented it to the House. I think I have another here.

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER—I have never been informed of it. I should be glad to see the slightest indication of it.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am quite sure I brought down a portion of them last year. Here is a supplementary return to an address of the Senate, giving the names and salaries of officers employed in the inside and outside service, and so on, specifying in each case the manner and ground of such removal, and so on. This return embraces two departments. If my recollection serves me right, all the other departments were brought down last year.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—None of them last year.

Hon. Mr. KIRCHHOFFER—I have never heard of them.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Is that the last instalment?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—This is marked “supplementary returns.” I made inquiry why it was so marked, and it was said that returns had been presented last year. I will have it looked up, and find out how it is.

RAILWAY RATES ON PURE BRED CATTLE.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—While on the matter of delayed information and returns, I have again to ask the hon. Secretary of State if he is prepared to give me an answer to the question which was left over, at his request, with regard to the allowance of half rates on pure bred cattle by the railway companies. My hon. friend will remember the point was, are the government railways making a similar reduction?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I mentioned at the time that I was under the impression that the rate on the Intercolonial Railway was considerably below the Grand Trunk rates. My hon. friend rather doubted the accuracy of the statement. Since then, I have got further information, which confirms the