

and 1878; during the former year the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Mackenzie) declared that the old slides were damaged considerably the previous season, and that it had become necessary to take decided action for repairs. Again, last year, that hon. gentleman informed the House that it was the intention of the Government to have the matter in such a state that, when the water reached the lowest stage, the Government would be able to prosecute the work with the utmost possible vigour. He was aware that the construction of those improvements at Carillon was necessary in the interests of the navigation—so that boats carrying lumber might be able to pass during the whole summer; and, in the reports of the Minister of Public Works, it was stated that the works previously constructed had already sustained considerable damage, and that, unless the works of the new canal were completed, it would be necessary to reconstruct the locks of the old canal, which were in a state incapable of being sustained much longer, and great inconvenience would be felt. Much work had been done and public money expended; money which, if he was correctly informed, by the exposure of the works in their unfinished state, would be, to a great extent, a loss to the country. It seemed to him the Government ought to make every effort in their power to bring that work to as speedy a completion as possible.

Motion, as amended, *agreed to*.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND DESTRUCTION OF WEEDS BILL.

MOTION FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. MOUSSEAU moved for copies of all correspondence between the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec and the Secretary of State, in 1877, in relation to a Bill intituled: "An Act to provide for the formation of Joint Stock Companies for the maintenance of roads and the destruction of weeds."

THE LATE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

MR. CHARLTON moved for a return showing the number of votes polled for each candidate in the different electoral

MR. WHITE.

districts during the late General Elections; the total number of votes on the voters' lists of each district; the population in such constituency as shewn by the last census; such return to show the returns of special elections, held up to the date of making the return.

Motion agreed to.

DISMISSAL OF JOHN B. SMITH.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

MR. RYKERT moved for a return of all correspondence and papers in connection with the dismissal of John B. Smith from the office of Deputy-Superintendent of the Southern Section of the Welland Canal, as also the report of the Superintendent of the Welland Canal in reference to such dismissal. He said the person mentioned in the resolution was dismissed or suspended on January 16th, 1874, upon a personal charge made against him by the late Minister of Public Works. That gentleman had been employed by the Government, and, from what was known in that neighbourhood, had discharged his duties faithfully, and there was no reason for his dismissal. On the 16th January, a few days before the elections for the House of Commons, Mr. Smith was suspended by an order issued from the Public Works Department, by telegraph, as follows:—"Suspend John B. Smith, because there are serious charges made against him." On the 21st January a very largely signed petition was sent to the Government, signed by leading men of both parties, among whom were his (Mr. Rykert's) late opponent in the local election, and other leading Reformers of that constituency, asking that Mr. Smith be restored to his position, in which it was alleged he gave the greatest satisfaction. On February 3rd that petition was sent to the Public Works Department, and Mr. Page endorsed on it the following words:—"Mr. Smith was, I believe, a foreman in the central part of the Welland Canal, but, having no knowledge of the reason for his suspension, I am unable to say whether or not he should be reinstated." On the 20th February, Mr. Smith wrote, demanding an investigation of those charges. That