

**MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY-  
INTERNAL ECONOMY.**

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. **SPEAKER** read the Message, as follows :—

**ABERDEEN.**

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, an approved Minute of Council, appointing the Honourable Sir Richard Cartwright, Minister of Trade and Commerce; the Honourable Louis Henry Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries; the Honourable William Stevens Fielding, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Joseph Israel Tarte, Minister of Public Works, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons, as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the 13th Chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, intituled: "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

Government House,

Ottawa, 24th August, 1896.

**CAPTAIN MCGREGOR, OF THE "BAY-  
FIELD."**

Mr. **CAMERON** asked,

1. Is the Government aware that Capt. A. M. McGregor, of the survey boat "Bayfield" has been an active political canvasser and partisan on behalf of Conservative candidates in the West Riding of the County of Huron for the last fifteen years? 2. Is the Government aware that at last general election the said Capt. McGregor abandoned said survey boat on Lake Erie and went to Goderich, in West Huron, to vote for the Conservative candidate? 3. Was the absence of said McGregor from his said duty with the knowledge, consent or authority of the Government on the occasion aforesaid? 4. Was any application made by him to the department or any of its officials for leave of absence on the occasion aforesaid? 5. If such application was made and leave granted, by whom was the leave granted, and for what cause?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Mr. Davies). 1. The Department of Marine and Fisheries has had no official knowledge that Captain McGregor has been an active political canvasser, &c., for the past fifteen years, but complaints have lately been made to the department charging Captain McGregor with being an active and offensive political partisan and these complaints will be investigated. 2. The department is aware that Captain McGregor was absent from his vessel and it is presumed for the purpose of voting. 3. Yes; I am so informed by the officials of the department. 4 and 5. There is no record of any application having been received for leave, but the officer in charge of the survey was instructed to grant leave to any officer or member of the crew of the "Bayfield" if he wished to avail himself of the privilege of voting.

Mr. **LAURIER.**

**CAPTAIN DUNN, OF THE "PETREL."**

Mr. **CAMERON** asked,

1. Is it within the knowledge of the Government or any of the departments thereof, that Captain Dunn, of the Government cruiser "Petrel," on service on Lake Erie a few days before the 23rd June, 1896, took said cruiser from said service to Owen Sound and conveyed voters from the various ports on the east coast of Lake Huron to Owen Sound to vote for the Conservative candidate at last general election? 2. Was the use of such cruiser for such a purpose with the knowledge, consent or authority of the department, or had said Captain Dunn authority to so use said cruiser? 3. Had the said Captain Dunn leave of absence from the department to go from Lake Erie to Owen Sound to vote at said election, or for any other purpose at that time? 4. Is the same Captain Dunn appointed by the present Government, with one McNeill, to investigate the complaints of the Wikwemikong Indians?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Mr. Davies). 1. The department is aware that Captain Dunn took the cruiser "Petrel" into Lake Huron on the 20th June, 1896, and was in Owen Sound on the 23rd of that month, but is not aware that any person was taken on board for the purpose of being conveyed to Owen Sound to vote or otherwise. 2. There is no record in the department of any such knowledge, consent or authority. 3. Captain Dunn had instructions to go into Lake Huron for the purpose of patrolling these waters. He was not limited to any particular point, as the whole of such waters are within his jurisdiction as a fishery officer. There is no record of any directions having been given about voting or interfering in any way with elections. 4. The Department of Indian Affairs requested this department to allow Captain Dunn to proceed to Manitoulin Island, and jointly with Mr. McNeill of that department, investigate complaints of the Wikwemikong Indians, of alleged unjust fishery prosecutions. Captain Dunn being a fishery officer, no special appointment is necessary.

**FRANCHISE ACT.**

Mr. **CAMERON** asked,

Is it the intention of the Government, during the present session of Parliament, to introduce a Bill to repeal the present Franchise Act or to otherwise deal with that Act?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Mr. Laurier). It is not the intention of the Government to introduce any legislation during the present session, their intention being that, in so far as practicable, the session should be short and expeditious. Should, however, the session be protracted beyond the expected length, the Government may then think it advisable to introduce a Bill to repeal the present Franchise Act.