

department. All I know of the result of the investigation is from Wolff's report presented to the department, whether it was three months before I am not prepared to say. I think the hon. member is mistaken as to the date of the report. It may not have been made immediately on the return of Wolff; that is a point of which I have no knowledge just now, but the papers will show. I am not responsible for communications made by Wolff in a private letter; neither is the Government nor the department, unless the hon. gentleman will show improper correspondence with an officer, and when such is brought to the notice of the department, Wolff will be dealt with like any other officer.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Shelburne). When Mr. Kerr, of Nova Scotia, was sent to investigate the case, the Government took no action, because he said there was no foundation whatever for the charges. When the case was re-opened, at the suggestion of the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Longley), the department did not again send Mr. Kerr but an officer from Ottawa, who is not employed on that special work.

Mr. BOWELL. He has been so for twelve months.

Mr. ROBERTSON. On the report of that officer no action was taken until three months had elapsed, and the officer at Bear River was never given an opportunity of replying to the charge.

Motion agreed to.

RETURNS.

The following motions for returns were severally agreed to:—

Copies of all correspondence between the Hudson's Bay Company, or any person acting on its behalf, or between any other person and the Government, in reference to the land on the north and south sides of the River Qu'Appelle, near its confluence with the Assiniboine; and also, in reference to the land on the east bank of the River Assiniboine, at or near its confluence with the Qu'Appelle, and for all papers, Orders in Council, etc., in relation thereto.—(Mr. Drew.)

Correspondence, papers and Orders in Council respecting claim of settlers on lands set apart for the Hamilton Colonization Company in the Bird Tail Land district, to be allowed to take up their pre-emption on odd or even numbered sections at \$1 per acre; and for all correspondence, papers and Orders in Council respecting the admission of other settlers to the same privileges.—(Mr. Drew.)

Copies of all correspondence in reference to the claims of persons whose lands have been expropriated for the Selkirk crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railway.—(Mr. Schultz.)

Copies of correspondence in relation to the deepening of the River Nicolet, and a harbor of refuge at the entrance of that river; also the plans and reports relating to the said undertaking.—(Mr. Méthot.)

Copy of all returns furnished by railway companies in Nova Scotia, under Vict. 38, Cap. 25, entitled "An Act to amend the Law requiring railway companies to furnish returns of their capital, traffic and working expenses."—(Mr. Rykert.)

Copies of the report of the engineer who conducted the survey of the harbor of New Carlisle in 1880.—(Mr. Beauchésne.)

PUBLIC BILL.

Mr. CASGRAIN moved that Bill (No. 5) for the better prevention of fraud in relation to contracts involving the expenditure of public moneys, be discharged, and that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, composed of the following members: the Minister of Justice, Messieurs

Mr. BOWELL.

Girouard (Jacques Cartier), Brooks, Guthrie, Cameron (Huron), Kirkpatrick and the Mover.

Motion agreed to, and Bill discharged.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. BOWELL, in the absence of Mr. WHITE (Hastings), moved the second reading of Bill (No. 48), respecting the Canada Consolidated Gold Mining Company.

Bill read the second time; and (at 6 o'clock, p.m.) the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

THURSDAY, 10th February, 1881.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRIVATE BILL.

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 55) to amend the Acts relating to the New Brunswick Railway Company.—(Mr. Weldon.)

CARRIAGE OF CORDWOOD TO WINNIPEG.

Mr. ROYAL enquired, Whether it is within the knowledge of the Government that the instructions given last autumn, by the hon. the Minister of Railways and Canals, to T. J. Lynskey, Superintendent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at Winnipeg, with the object of assisting the working classes of Winnipeg and St. Boniface, by providing as many cars as possible for the use of those desirous of bringing in cordwood from the east of the Province, have been interpreted by the said T. J. Lynskey in such a way as practically to give to the Hon. Gilbert McMicken, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, a monopoly of the entire carriage of cordwood, and that instead of lowering the price of cordwood, that monopoly has been the source of considerable profit to the said Hon. Gilbert McMicken, and against the instructions mentioned in the letter of the hon. the Minister dated the 31st ult., addressed to Captain Thomas Scott, Member for Winnipeg.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have to say, in answer to the question put by the hon. gentleman, that instructions were given to reduce the charges for bringing cordwood into the city of Winnipeg; but they were not given in such a way, as to discriminate in favor of any parties. The Superintendent was directed to furnish carriage for all cordwood without reference to any individuals, and the Company with which the Hon. Gilbert McMicken was associated had no advantage over other parties bringing in cordwood. I did not understand that that gentleman was at all interested in any other way than as a member of a company engaged in furnishing cordwood. Instructions were given to provide all facilities for carrying cordwood into Winnipeg at reduced rates to those previously charged on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

NAVIGATION OF THE ASSINIBOINE.

Mr. DREW enquired, Whether the Government is aware that a bridge erected by the Hudson's Bay Company across the Assiniboine River at Fort Ellice, prevents steamers passing up the stream above that point, and whether they will take steps to secure such alterations in the bridge, by placing a swing or draw in it as will remove the existing obstruction to navigation?