

mentioned would derive from this improvement, from an agricultural, an industrial and a commercial point of view. The hon. member for Yamaska (Mr. Vanasse) showed us the resources of that part of the country, by referring to the official reports of the census, and persuaded us that the considerable trade carried on there, taking into account the fertility of the soil and the industrial spirit of the population, would be a hundred times greater without those obstacles to navigation. I could not, Sir, allow the occasion to pass without pointing out more precisely, if it were possible, what are the industries and trade of some of the five parishes of the county I have the honor of representing, in order that you may judge of the profits that the country would derive from moneys spent on the improvement of that river, without losing sight of the fact that the area of the different counties watered by the River Yamaska comprises 1,170,198 square acres, of which more than half is in a state of culture. I will limit myself, in order not to take up the time of the House, to the agricultural products of two parishes only in the county of Richelieu, which are in the surveyed section. The parishes of St. Aimé and St. Martel are situated, the one on the north, the other on the south bank of this river, and they cover an area of seven miles by four miles and a-half. The valuation of the real estate is \$700,000. The wood and hemlock-bark which goes through there, for the most part in transit, cannot be estimated at less than 8,000 or 10,000 cords. The product of the land, and products from other sources, which were above the average, were as follows: 17,200 bushels of wheat, 3,000 bushels of barley, 8,000 bushels of peas, 50,000 bushels of oats, 18,000 bushels of buckwheat, 1,500 bushels of beans, 8,000 bushels of Indian corn, 28,000 bushels of potatoes, 3,000 bushels of beets, 2,500 bushels of carrots, 3,000 bushels of turnips, 1,000 bushels of onions, 300,000 bundles of hay, 450,000 bundles of straw, 50,000 pounds of cheese, 20,000 pounds of butter, 20,000 dozens of eggs, 5,000 pairs of fowls, 60,000 pounds of tobacco. The annual sale of animals comprises 2,400 head of cattle, 1,000 horses, and 4,000 sheep. Relying on similar products, or nearly so, of twenty other parishes, we can safely say that the improvement of the River Yamaska would be a source of wealth for the country. Ste. Helene and St. Hugues, in the county of Bagot; St. Barnabé and St. Judes in the county of St. Hyacinthe; St. Louis de Bonssecours, and St. Aimé and St. Marcel in the county of Richelieu; St. Guillaume, St. David and St. Michel, in the county of Yamaska, would immediately benefit by it, as well as all the parishes lying behind these. Easy communication would secure an outlet for agricultural products, and thereby increase them; public enterprise would profit thereby, for the works would hardly be finished before we would see steamboat companies competing for the transportation to the market, either of Sorel or Montreal, the produce of these fertile parishes. Although I am well disposed towards helping the construction of a railway that is to unite the Atlantic with the Pacific, thereby strengthening the union of the Provinces, I think we should not lose sight of the advantages to be gained by improving the Yamaska River.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I feel much pleasure in having laid before this House the answer to the Address moved for by the hon. member. I must add, Mr. Speaker, that the attention of the Government has been specially drawn to this matter by three or four members, among others, by the hon. member for the county bordering on the Yamaska River. This question, no doubt, required to be looked into, and I am satisfied that the hon. member will see by the report that will be laid on the Table of this House, that the engineers, who have studied the question during last summer, have fulfilled their duty, and the reports that are now before the House will be sufficient to enable us to answer the question whether improvements are to be made

there this year. The hon. member will find an answer to that question when the Budget is brought down.

Motion agreed to.

#### RIGHTS OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

Mr. McCUAIG, in moving for copies of all correspondence between any of the Provincial Governments and the Government of the Dominion relating to the rights of the Provincial Governments to appoint police magistrates, justices of the peace and inspectors of licenses, said that the Act of Confederation was so ambiguously drawn in this respect as to leave room for doubt whether the Dominion Government had power to appoint magistrates, justices of the peace and inspectors of licenses. Very recently a case in appeal was tried in Nova Scotia, and the Judge presiding pronounced in favor of the appellants. The decision was to the effect that the Dominion Government alone had the right to make the appointment. It was not necessary for him to call attention to the difficulties that often arose through the conflict of jurisdiction. This Parliament should determine whether the Provincial Parliament enjoyed the right or not. He was opposed to the Government allowing this matter to be tried by private individuals. It should have the case tried before the Supreme Court, which was the proper tribunal to determine whether the Dominion Government had the right to appoint police magistrates and justices of the peace or not.

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou) said his hon. friend was not quite correct in reference to his recollection of the case decided in Nova Scotia. The Judge held that the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia had not the authority to appoint justices of the peace; but, at the time of the decision, Nova Scotia stood in a different position from the Provinces in this respect. At various periods since Confederation all the Provinces, or at any rate the Provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba, passed Provincial Acts authorizing the Lieutenant-Governors of those Provinces to appoint justices of the peace. At the time of the decision to which his hon. friend referred, Nova Scotia had not followed the precedent set by the other Provinces, and the Judge held that whatever the result might be, had Nova Scotia passed such an Act, the Lieutenant-Governor had not at the time the power, under our Constitution, to appoint justices of the peace. The result was, Nova Scotia the following Session passed an Act vesting such power in the Lieutenant-Governor. What effect that had on the general question is a very different point, well worthy of consideration. With reference to the mode of settling the question as suggested by his hon. friend, there was this difficulty, that in order to make that mode satisfactory to the several Provinces, each Province would, as a matter of course, have to accede to the proposition by joining in the case proposed to be made, and it is questionable whether the Provinces that claim that right under their own legislation would be prepared to join in such a case. The papers would be brought down and any information they could give would be at the disposal of his hon. friend.

Mr. McCUAIG said it appeared to him most extraordinary for the Provincial Legislatures, unless authority had been given them by the British North America Act, to assume to legislate on the subject of the appointment of Queen's Counsel. They could not arrogate to themselves powers properly belonging to the Dominion Parliament. He was wholly opposed to the proposition of the Minister of Justice, that the duty of determining that point should be thrown on private individuals. It was plain that the Judge in the County Court of Digby, who tried the case of Chas. H.