

passengers to any one or more persons.

He said that it was rumoured that the contract for the conveyance of freight and passengers had been given to one person only, without tenders being advertised for. If the statement were untrue it was the duty of the Government to bring the facts to light. It had also been stated that from two to three cents more per hundredweight had been paid for railway freight than would have been if competition had been solicited.

Mr. THOMPSON (Cariboo) thought in justice to the contractor and the employees that the information should be supplied. Rumours were abroad that excessive prices had been paid to the different parties concerned. He had no reason to believe the rumours, but as they had been scattered broadcast he thought it was the duty of the Government to accede to the motion.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE had no objection to the motion; he had no personal knowledge of the abuses of which complaint was made; but if they were found to exist they would be rectified. The great distance of British Columbia from the centre of operations here, where the Chief Engineer was stationed, rendered it necessary that the Chief Engineer of that Province should be entrusted with a very great deal of authority—much more than any officer in any other part of the Dominion. He did not doubt that this executive officer had used this power wisely; but, nevertheless, mistakes might have been committed. The utmost expedition would be used in bringing the information desired before the House; and he would only suggest, that in addition, the hon. member might also ask for a return respecting those who had paid no fare on Government steamers.

Mr. DEWDNEY observed that he had been on the point of making the same suggestion.

Mr. DECOSMOS replied that he was aware of the position held by the Chief engineer mentioned, who had, however, nothing whatever to do with the contract; consequently, the allusion of the Premier to this officer did not strike him as quite proper. The First Minister had suggested an amendment which

Mr. DECOSMOS.

he was quite willing to accept; he was aware that the distinguished gentleman who led the Government referred to himself (Mr. DeCosmos), and he would state the case. Last autumn he proposed, as one of the representatives of the City of Victoria, to visit Bute Inlet, as he considered was his duty in view of the fact that it was proposed to build the Pacific Railway to this point. He accordingly asked the chief officer in charge of the Marine and Fisheries Department there for permission to go on a Government steamer; this was given, and he went on board. Subsequently he received a note stating that he could not proceed, but as he had made his arrangements he replied that he would not go ashore unless forced. He thought that the reference of the Prime Minister in this regard did him no credit. He believed that the paymaster had acted in this connection through personal spite, being also, no doubt, inspired by fear lest he, as a journalist, might discover something out of the way in that gentleman's department. He was willing to accept the amendment, unless the Premier was prepared to apologise for mentioning the matter.

The motion was carried.

#### DUTIES ON LOCOMOTIVES.

Mr. THOMSON (Welland) moved for a statement of duties levied on locomotives or parts thereof since 1st July, 1867, &c., &c.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER seized this opportunity to ask the Minister of Customs whether he had supplied the missing portions of the correspondence in order that it might all be printed in detail, having been referred to the Printing Committee.

Hon. Mr. BURPEE replied that all this correspondence would be shortly laid on the table.

Mr. McDONALD (Cape Breton), moved for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, for copies of all correspondence in relation to the dismissal of Mr. McDougall, Postmaster, Christmas Island, Cape Breton; and also, all correspondence in relation to the appointment of a successor.

He explained that Mr. McDougall was one of the most respectable and weal-