

of the election contest in Queen's, N.B. (other than those of an election by acclamation) in case it should be determined that the returning officer was right in returning G. F. Baird as elected by acclamation?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. When the case comes up, it will be time enough to answer. The whole subject is now engaging the attention of the Department.

SUBSIDY TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. PERRY asked, Has a sum of money been placed to the credit of the Government of Prince Edward Island by the Federal Government, from the first day of July, 1886, up to date? If so, what amount? If not, is it the intention of the Government to place a sum in the Estimates during the present Session for that purpose? And what sum?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No sum, in addition to the usual subsidy, has been placed to the credit of Prince Edward Island by the Federal Government from the 1st of July, 1876, to date. It is the intention of the Government to ask Parliament at this present Session for authority to grant an additional subsidy of \$20,000 to the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. DAVIES. Is that yearly?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes.

THE NORTHERN LIGHT.

Mr. DAVIES asked, Is it the intention of the Government to have constructed during next summer a new steamer to assist the *Northern Light* in carrying on winter communication between Prince Edward Island and the mainland? If so, what steps (if any) have been taken to that end? If not, how do they propose carrying out the terms of union with that Province, next winter, in respect to such communication?

Mr. FOSTER. The whole subject is now engaging the attention of the Department.

CLAIM OF THE SIX NATION INDIANS.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant) moved:

That a Special Committee be appointed to examine into and report upon the claim of the Six-Nation Indians, as set forth in their petition presented to this House on 18th April, 1887, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Mills (Pothwell), Dawson, Lister, McNeill, Armstrong, O'Brien, Casey, Paterson (Essex), Burdett, Guillet, and the mover, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

He said: I am not unaware of the fact that, in moving for a special committee of the House with power to send for persons, records, &c., some expenditure is involved, but I think the subject I move upon is of such importance as to warrant it. The claim of the Six Nation Indians to a large tract of land has, I think, been under the consideration of the Government for some years, and the chiefs and warriors of those nations feel they have been unable to obtain a satisfactory explanation, or receive what they deem a satisfactory answer; in short, they feel that the claim they prefer to such lands, mentioned in the petition, is a just and valid claim. They feel that they are unable to present their case as favorably for themselves as they would desire, owing to the lack of full information on the subject; and the First Minister and the House will recognise that I, who present their claim, lie under the same difficulty in not having access to, and in not having the opportunity of examining the documents and records connected with this matter, so that I can only make such representations as have been made by the Indians by myself. I am in hopes that the First Minister will be able to give us some explanation; and if he sees his way clear to send the case to a committee, I hope that committee will be in a position to order

all the papers and records bearing on this important matter. It would be well, in order to place the House in possession of the nature of the claim of these warriors, that I should just read the petition which they presented to the House, and which has not yet been read:

"To the Honorable the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada, in Parliament Assembled:—

"The Petition of the Six Nation Indians, respectfully and humbly sheweth—

"That, by a certain instrument, dated the 25th day of October, 1784, under the hand and seal of arms of Sir Frederick Haldimand, then Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Province of Quebec and Territories depending thereon, the Mohawk Nation and such other of the Six Nation Indians as wished to settle in that quarter were authorised and permitted to take possession of and settle upon the banks of the river commonly called Oswego or Grand River running into Lake Erie, allotting to them for that purpose six miles deep on each side of the river, beginning at Lake Erie and extending in that proportion to the head of said river, which they and their posterity were to enjoy forever.

"That the Six Nation Indians, from time to time, by deeds dated respectively January 15th, 1798, February 5th, 1798, November 19th, 1809, April 19th, 1830, April 19th, 1831, February 8th, 1834, March 26th, 1835, and January 18th, 1841, surrendered to the Crown that portion of the said lands so granted to them from Lake Erie to the north boundary of the township of Nicol, in the county of Wellington, excepting thereout lands in the township of Tuscarora, Oneida, Onondaga and Brantford, which are held and occupied by your humble petitioners.

"That the head of the Grand River is in the 4th concession of the township of Melancthon, a distance of about forty miles from the north-boundary of the said township of Nicol.

"That the Six Nations had not at any time surrendered a right to the lands between the said north boundary of the township of Nicol and the head of the said Grand River, nor had they been allowed or granted any other lands in lieu thereof, nor had they been paid or allowed any sum for the value of the said lands, but the said lands have been taken by the Crown and sold, and the right and title of your petitioners to the same has been ignored.

"That the said Six Nations believe that they were justly entitled to the said lands in question which they claim according to the reading of the said instrument as the only deed they always recognise—the deed of the said Sir Frederick Haldimand—which they have always had in their possession, and which the Imperial Government also recognised, as evidenced by their action whenever the Six Nation Indians surrendered any land to the Crown, even subsequent to the issuing of the Simcoe deed, which your august Assembly seems endeavoring to put forward in place of the first deed.

"In the report of the Hon. John Henry Dunn, the Hon. George Herchmer Markland, and William Hepbourn, Esquire, the trustees who were appointed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on behalf of the Six Nation Indians to investigate and report for his information on claims preferred by various persons to lands belonging to the Six Nation Indians and situated on the Grand River, are the words: 'The trustees are satisfied, from copies laid before them of the correspondence in the year 1797 between the late President Russell and Captain Joseph Brant, deceased, as well as a power of attorney dated 10th October, 1804, and executed, it appears, by the Sachem and Chiefs at a council especially convened for the purpose, that Captain Joseph Brant was the accredited agent of the Six Nations, and invested with full power on their behalf to obtain deeds from the Crown conveying the tracts of land granted to them on the Grand River by the late Sir Frederick Haldimand in the year 1784, and which grant, it would seem from the correspondence above alluded to, was confirmed by the Home Government during the Duke of Portland's administration.'

"It is therefore the prayer and humble desire of your petitioners that your august Assembly do fully investigate and give your serious consideration to the said claims of the Six Nation Indians now presented before you, and your petitioners in duty bound will ever pray.

"Signed in behalf of the Six Nation Council and warriors,

"WILLIAM SMITH,
"Mohawk Chief."

That is the wording of their petition to the House. It recites in a brief manner the claim that is preferred. The Six Nation Indians, as the House will know, remained during the time of the Revolutionary War true to the British Crown. They lost their possessions in what became the United States of America as the result of that, and the English Government, recognising their services, recognising their loyalty to the Crown, through Sir Frederick Haldimand, then Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec and the Territories appertaining thereto, gave to these Indians, under the hand and seal of Governor Haldimand, a grant of six miles in width on each side of the Grand River from its source to its mouth. Thither these Indians removed, there they were residing, and there their descendants reside to-