

improving at the rate of millions of dollars the navigation of their waters and are building lighthouses. The whole expense for the construction of this cable is a few thousand dollars, and I believe it would be greatly appreciated by our sailors and our fishermen. Just before I came here for the Session, I had to receive a deputation of lake captains, who urged me to bring this matter again before the Government. It has been brought before them from year to year, and the persuasive style of the Minister of Public Works has not been sufficient to catch the ear of his colleagues. It is possible that more experience in this matter may enable him to obtain a favorable result this time.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This matter has gone before my colleagues, and I hope this time that their ears will be opened.

Motion agreed to.

#### THE NORTHERN LIGHT.

Mr. WELSH moved for:

Return of all correspondence, telegrams and reports upon the *Northern Light* (including hull, machinery and boilers) for the year 1887, and from 1st January to date; also, all correspondence, telegrams and reports relative to the steamer *Alert*, and her fitness as a winter boat in the Straits of St Lawrence; also, all estimates and expenditure proposed to be laid out in the attempt to fit *Alert* for the winter crossing.

He said: I want to offer a suggestion to the hon. Minister of Marine which will save him some trouble. Some time about the 1st March, I moved:

For a return showing the names and salaries of all Captains in charge of Government steamers, together with the salaries and allowances at present payable to and received by them, together with all petitions, correspondence, telegrams, &c., relative to the paying of the Captain of the *Northern Light* since 1st January, 1879. Also for a return showing the names and number of men employed in or about the *Northern Light* during last summer, from the time she ceased running in the spring of 1887, until she again resumed in the autumn of the same year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to inform the Minister of Marine that I hold in my hand the return to this motion, but it does not contain the number of men employed about that steamer since she was laid up last spring until the ensuing fall. What is the meaning of sending in half a return when this House ordered a full return? I intend to have a full return, and if it is not brought down, if the Order of the House is not attended to, I intend to make a motion for a commission of enquiry in this matter. I can assure the Minister of Marine that he will not find an hon. gentleman on the front Government benches that will support him in this act.

Mr. FOSTER. I instructed my officers to comply with the Order of the House, and that report was handed in, and I supposed it thoroughly complied with the Order of the House. From the excited manner in which the hon. member made his remarks to the House, I inferred that his chief grievance was with reference to the number of men employed. It may be that the number of men employed was not given. If there is any omission it can be very easily remedied, and could have been just as easily remedied if my hon. friend had shown less feeling. I can assure him that there is no intention of depriving the House of full information. In fact, if my hon. friend will wait a little while we may make him a present of the *Northern Light*.

Mr. WELSH. I know there was a great number of men employed on the steamer last summer, making repairs, when there was no captain in charge of her, and without any one to superintend their work; and I wanted to know the number of men so employed, and the amount of money paid to them, in order that the House might see the manner in which the business of that department is conducted. That was my motive. There is no feeling in the matter, so far

as I am concerned; although the matter may appear to the hon. gentleman one to cause a little excitement. The truth is, I feel sore about this matter, and if I don't get this return, I will make the hon. gentleman feel sore, if I am not very much mistaken.

Mr. FOSTER. That is undoubtedly the way in which the mistake has arisen. My officers have given the number of the crew and the officers of the ship that were employed, and not the others.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The hon. gentleman said that if my hon. friend had a little patience, perhaps in a short time they would make him a present of the *Northern Light*. Is it the intention of the Government to supersede the *Northern Light* with any other vessel?

Mr. FOSTER. It is.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). If so, have arrangements been made for the purchase of another vessel, and where and when will they be carried out?

Mr. FOSTER. It is the intention of the Government to supersede the *Northern Light* by a new vessel, and arrangements are now being made with that end in view. I will be able to explain the matter more fully to the House later on.

Motion agreed to.

#### WORKS FOR THE DESCENT OF TIMBER AND LOGS ON THE OTTAWA RIVER.

Mr. AMYOT (Translation) moved for:

Statement setting forth the total cost of the construction of various works for the descent of timber and saw-logs on the Ottawa River and its tributaries, up to the 30th June last; also statement showing the yearly expenditure for the maintenance of the said works for five years preceding the 30th June last, under the different heads of reconstruction, repairs and cost of management, at each of the stations, with the names of river or tributary where the same was expended; likewise copies of any or all applications, whether from individuals or chartered companies, to acquire by purchase or otherwise all or any portion of said works and improvements on the said Ottawa River and tributaries thereof.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. (Translation.) There are one or two points of information demanded in this motion which it will be difficult, if not impossible, to give. I shall try, nevertheless, to supply them as nearly as possible.

Mr. AMYOT. (Translation.) Could the hon. Minister give us an idea of the time that we could get these documents? It would be an advantage to have them before the discussion of a Bill which is now before the Railway Committee.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. (Translation.) In that case I judge that the report should be divided in two, for the reason that I fear a certain portion of the documents asked for by the hon. gentleman cannot be got ready in time. I quite understand what the hon. gentleman means by making this motion, and I shall do my utmost to forward the hurrying down of the papers.

Motion agreed to.

#### PROHIBITION.

Mr. JAMIESON moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors, except for sacramental, medicinal, scientific and mechanical purposes. That the enforcement of such prohibition, and such manufacture, importation