

## HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, 23th February, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

## QUEEN'S COUNTY (P.E.I.) ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honor to inform the House, that I have received from the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Canada, a certified copy of the Judgment of the said Court, in the Election Appeal relating to the Electoral District of Queen's County District, in the Province of Prince Edward Island, in which John Theophilus Jenkins was appellant, and Frederick de St. Croix Brecken was respondent, together with a copy of the evidence brought before that Court, said judgment declaring the respondent duly elected.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. FORBES enquired, Is it the intention of the Government to expend the money voted in the Estimates of 1882, for the building of a breakwater on the west side of Liverpool Bay, Queen's County, Nova Scotia, during the coming summer; and if so, will it be done by tender, contract, or by commission?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform the hon. gentleman, that, after looking into the matter, I am informed, by my Chief Engineer, that this will be a very costly work, and that it will consequently require more examination before we can proceed with the work.

## SUMMERSIDE RAILWAY STATION.

Mr. YEO enquired, Whether the hon. Minister of Railways has had his attention called to the dangerous situation of the railway station in Summerside, Prince Edward Island; and whether it is his intention, this summer, to have the necessary alteration made to relieve the travelling public from the dangers they are daily subject to arising from the situation of this station house?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I may say, in answer to the hon. gentleman, that my attention has been called to the subject, and I have learned that the matter has been carefully examined into. The land which was at one time expropriated by the Local Government for the building of an over-head bridge, was, however, surrendered by that Government and is now sold to private parties to be built upon. Had this not been done, we should have proposed the erection of an over-head bridge, as was originally intended.

## APPOINTMENT OF HONORABLE HECTOR FABRE.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation). In moving for copies of the correspondence relating to the appointment of Hon. Hector Fabre to the position he now occupies in France, with copies of all communications and instructions issued to him by order of the Government, also statement showing the duties required of him and the salary and commission paid or to be paid for such services, as well as a statement of all other expenses, and a statement of salary received from the Province of Quebec and contingencies; also copies of all reports made by the hon. Hector Fabre, with any official papers showing the result of the mission, said: Mr. Speaker, my object in making this motion is to make known what the duties of the hon. Mr. Fabre in Paris are. This proposition I also make in consequence of the intimation given to this House by the hon. the Finance Minister, last year, that he intended to utilize Mr. Fabre's services while

Sir LEONARD TILLEY.

in Paris. It would be very important for us to know what these services have been, and whether they are really worth the money paid out of the public exchequer to remunerate him. On the other hand, the public are interested in knowing whether or not Mr. Fabre has rendered such services as he had promised, and if any report has been received from him; finally, what is the nature and character of his occupation? We are so far completely in the dark on the subject. It does not appear from any of the public records, that Mr. Fabre has sent in any report regarding the aid given by him to emigration, or concerning any literary or political service that he may have rendered Canada. When the papers asked for are laid before the House, some light will probably be thrown on the subject, but so far we are in utter darkness. Hence I make this motion, and I hope the papers asked for will be laid before the House at an early day. Some evil disposed persons say that the occupation of Mr. Fabre in Paris does not amount to much, and they add, by means of mockery, that he was sent there to observe the transit of Venus. He may have business more important than that to transact; in any case, the House would be happy to know what are his duties and the amount of his salary as the representative of this country at the Paris Observatory.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN (Translation). The hon. member has included in his motion "a statement of the salary received from the Province of Quebec and contingencies." The hon. gentleman ought to know that we cannot supply this information, and he should not ask for it. It is impossible for us to supply this information. Then, as a matter of form, the hon. member should, by his motion, ask the Government and not the House for these papers, as it is a question of money.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation). I believe the intimation given this House by the hon. the Finance Minister, last year, was that the Dominion Government intended to avail themselves of the services of Mr. Fabre while in Paris, conjointly with the Quebec Government, and that he had been sent on a special mission by the Federal Government. As a matter of course the two Governments must have come to certain conclusions regarding the remuneration to be allowed Mr. Fabre, and if documents exist relating to this salary we should have them. Surely Mr. Fabre does not receive a double salary; in any case, if he is paid a double salary, it is still further reason for us to know what is paid by the Ottawa Government and what by the Government of the Province of Quebec?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN (Translation). The hon. member would do well to leave out that part of his motion, and, if the Government do not furnish all the information he requests, he may move for additional papers; but I think he will find all he wants in the papers which will be laid before the House.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation). Then I withdraw that part of my motion.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

## EXPENDITURE ON TELEGRAMS IN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. BLAKE moved for a statement of the expenditure for each month elapsed for the current fiscal year, on telegrams charged to various works in the Department of Public Works, showing the amount charged to each work, respectively, and for a like statement from November, 1881, to June, 1882, inclusive. He said: I notice by a letter from the Secretary of the Public Works Department, which appears in the report of the Auditor-General, that a change was made in the course of the last fiscal year in the mode of charging the particular contingencies to which the