

HARBOURS, WHARVES, ETC.

Mr. M. C. Cameron—Whether the Government intend doing anything, and if so, when and what towards the construction of a harbour of refuge on the east coast of Lake Huron, there being at present no safe harborage on that coast for the protection of vessels, engaged in the commerce of the lakes, or for the safety and protection of Her Majesty's gunboats stationed there. Three several Select Committees, appointed by the House of Assembly of the Province of Canada, having, on three several occasions, reported strongly in favour of such a harbour?

Hon. Mr. McDougall said he would like these questions to stand till after the recess. The subject was one of considerable importance, both constitutionally, and as a matter of expenditure. It was now engaging the attention of Government with a view to arriving at a just conclusion upon it.

JUDGE OF HURON AND BRUCE

Mr. M. C. Cameron—Whether Isaac F. Toms, appointed Junior or Deputy Judge of the County Court of the United Counties of Huron and Bruce in 1866, has resigned that appointment, or whether his Commission as such Junior or Deputy Judge has been cancelled or superseded, and if so, when?

Sir John A. Macdonald said that Judge Toms, of Huron and Bruce, resigned his office on 24th August last. His resignation was accepted on 2nd September, and the acceptance of it was communicated to him on September 9th.

TAXING EXPRESS COMPANIES

Mr. Bodwell—Whether it is the intention of the Government to provide for the taxation in the form of a license, or otherwise, of express companies doing business in Canada, and to require a deposit from foreign companies doing such business in Canada, sufficient to protect the public against loss in case of default on the part of such companies?

Hon. Mr. Rose said the question of imposing a tax on express companies doing business in Canada, and requiring a deposit from foreign companies doing such business, was under the consideration of Government, in connection with other measures affecting the revenue.

FORT WILLIAM

Mr. McConkey—Whether it is the intention of the Government to put such sum in the estimates as will remove the bar or obstruction at the mouth of the Kamanistigun River, at Fort William, Lake Superior, with a view to the navigation of that stream?

Hon. Mr. McDougall said it was not the intention of the Government to take any steps with reference to the removal of the obstruction at the mouth of Kamanistigun river at Fort William, Lake Superior.

NAVIGATION OF RIVER SYDENHAM

Mr. Mills moved the second reading of the Bill to facilitate the removal of obstruction to the navigation of the River Sydenham.

Hon. Mr. McDougall said so far as the Bill related to keeping this river navigable it was the duty of this Government to take such steps as might be necessary for that purpose; but the power given by the Bill to parties to take and hold as their own property logs and timber which may have been sunk in the river, struck him as a question of civil right, which was a question for the Local Government to deal with as far as the first point was concerned. If the Bill was necessary it was one which should be in the hands, not of the member for Bothwell, but of himself (Mr. McDougall), as Minister of Public Works, and he would advise the honourable gentleman to let it stand till after the Easter recess.

Mr. Morris expressed the opinion that the words "navigation and shipping" in the Union Act, among the class of subjects to be legislated on by this Parliament, applied to legislation of a general character on these subjects, and not to the question of obstructions to the navigation of particular rivers, which was a question, he thought, belonging to the Local Government and Legislature.

Mr. Mills, while accepting the suggestion of the Minister of Public Works, contended that there could be no doubt as to the power of this Parliament to legislate on the subject.

Mr. Abbott was disposed to concur in the view suggested by the member for Lanark. He thought this House was to legislate on matters of trade, navigation and shipping in the general and abstract. If it was held that the words "navigation and shipping" gave this Parliament jurisdiction over every part