

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

Mr. DOMVILLE inquired whether Government have taken any steps to guard the property of persons living on the line of road between St. John, New Brunswick, and Shediac, New Brunswick, from being destroyed by fire by the Intercolonial Railway locomotives.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he was not aware of any possible means Government had in their power for that purpose, and therefore they had taken no steps in that direction.

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RAILWAY FENCES

Mr. DOMVILLE enquired whether it is the intention of Government to replace the fences along the line of railroad between St. John, New Brunswick, and Shediac, which are now in a most dilapidated state from fire and decay.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said contracts had been given out for the erection of the fences.

Mr. DOMVILLE next enquired whether it is the intention of Government for the future, to keep the fences on the Intercolonial Railway between St. John, New Brunswick, and Shediac in repair, or if they propose compelling the farmers and others to do so.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the Government would not think of compelling the farmers to do it, even if they had the power, which they had not; but the Government received some propositions from farmers, and they entertained a plan for enabling farmers to keep their own fences by paying them a certain rate. He could not actually say if they could carry that out, but they would endeavour to do so if the farmers undertook the work.

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POST OFFICE ORDERS

Mr. LANDERKIN enquired if the Government intends reducing the percentage now charged on Post Office money orders.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Glengarry) said it was not the intention of the Government to do so.

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MARITIME RAILWAYS

Mr. PALMER enquired whether it is the intention of the Government to sell or lease any and what portion of the Government railways in the Maritime Provinces, and if so, whether it is the intention to offer the same at public competition.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the Government had not considered the propriety of either selling or leasing any of these roads at present. (*Hear, hear.*) He had not heard of any proposition being made to the Government on the subject. The hon. gentleman was perhaps not aware that a portion of these roads was given to another railway company by Order in Council in October last, which Order had to be ratified by Parliament.

Mr. PALMER said he put the question in consequence of a rumour he had heard that it was the intention of the Government to lease them. He thought the answer of the Premier very satisfactory.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said the Government had the matter under consideration.

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WELLAND CANAL PROTECTION

Mr. McCALLUM asked whether it is the intention of the Government to establish a police force on the line of the new works on the Welland Canal.

Hon. Mr. DORION said there was an Act which enabled the Government to declare that any position of country where public works were carried on, required protection. The Government had nothing more to do than to declare that the Act should be applicable to certain public works, and then it was for the local Government to provide the necessary force to maintain peace and order. As yet the Government had not been required to put this Act in force in regard to the work referred to, although some correspondence had taken place between the Dominion and Ontario Governments on the subject.

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PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex West) moved for the appointment of a Committee to act with the Committee of the Senate to consider and report upon petitions praying for a prohibitory liquor law.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON suggested that the motion should be allowed to stand over until tomorrow.

The suggestion was agreed to.

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CUSTOMS RETURNS

Hon. Mr. BURPEE (St. John, City and County) brought down the return of Customs collected for the month of March.

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EXPULSION OF LOUIS RIEL

The order of the day being called,

Mr. BOWELL rose. He said with the consent of the Government, and as a question of privilege, he would move the motion of which he had given notice, with reference to the seat of the member for Provencher (Louis Riel). Before doing so, however, he desired to have it distinctly understood that in a matter of such importance as this, and considering the crime of which that member stood charged, he desired as an individual, as he believed it was the desire of every member of the House, that they should have a question of so much magnitude raised altogether beyond question of nationality or of religion. He regretted exceedingly that the discussions upon this subject had narrowed down into these questions.