

they are all right, it is probably because the officers concerned in the matter at that time are dead and gone, or that they know nothing about it, and cannot give the explanations upon which the permanent staff of that time or the political staff decided the other way. When these claims are brought down after a lapse of fifteen years, I think that the least we can expect is that we shall have the papers before us which led the Minister to his present conclusion.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I will bring all the papers down on Concurrence.

Mr. BLAKE. In both cases?

Mr. COSTIGAN. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. And we will have latitude of discussion?

Mr. COSTIGAN. Yes.

388. Weights and Measures .....\$1,390.03

Mr. COSTIGAN. The first item is \$500, to provide for necessary increases to certain inspectors and assistants. The next item is a balance of a revote which has lapsed, to pay ex-inspectors sums deducted for superannuation.

Mr. BLAKE. This covers all payments for these officers?

Mr. COSTIGAN. Yes.

Resolutions to be reported.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved the adjournment of House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 1:30 a.m. o'clock) the House adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS,

THURSDAY, 17th May, 1883.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### BILL INTRODUCED.

The following Bill was introduced and read the first time:—

Bill (No. 119) further to amend the Tariff of duties of Customs.—(Sir Leonard Tilley.)

### STATIONERY FURNISHED TO MEMBERS.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell), in moving that the seventh report of the Joint Committee of both Houses on the printing of Parliament, be concurred in, said: If the House will permit me, I will make a brief statement in relation to a matter which has engaged the attention of those hon. members of the Joint Committee who are members of this House. There has been a good deal of complaint made in regard to the stationery supplied to members in the boxes they receive at the commencement of each Session, and the members of the Joint Committee, who are members of this House, through a sub-Committee of their own, examined into this matter and have come to the conclusion, if it be the will of the House, to recommend that in some respects the class of stationery furnished to us be changed, and that it be more in conformity to that furnished to the Senate, though there are some other articles furnished in the Senate boxes which will not be furnished to us. I may say that the ordinary folio post, the ordinary letter paper, will be abandoned altogether, and instead of it, we shall have note-paper of a somewhat better quality—paper that we can write upon and turn over, without danger of its breaking; and in one or two other respects we think the change will be advantageous. I ought to say, perhaps, that

it would involve some slight additional cost—not very much; but the Committee who considered the matter this morning, came to the conclusion that it would be better to go to that slight additional cost and have paper that is really suitable for use. The small boxes which we have now cost, I believe, \$1.65 each; the boxes which the Senate have now, and which it is proposed to have here, will cost not more than \$2. This is a matter that could not be referred to the Joint Committee, because those members of the Committee who are members of the Senate have nothing whatever to do with this matter, it being one of internal arrangement, and we thought this the only way it could be brought to the attention of the House so that an order could be given by you, Mr. Speaker, to the head of the stationery department, and by mentioning it here, if there was no opposition to it, then the list as prepared by the sub-Committee could be furnished. There is also another matter which I desire to mention, and it is in relation to the supply of stationery to members while in Session. We have discovered that the present system is abused, I do not mean to say that it is abused by members, but that it is open to very great abuse; and the proposal that is made is, that each of the pages be furnished with a small pad and pencil, and when he is sent for stationery the member shall take the trouble—as it will take but a moment—to write the order and sign it with his name, so that the head of the stationery department will have some guarantee that the paper that is sent for is, at any rate, intended for a member. It has been discovered that in some cases paper has been obtained in the name of members that really was not for members at all, and it is thought this plan will correct that abuse. I think that, perhaps, we may save as much in connection with the stationery by adopting this plan as the extra cost of the stationery to be supplied to members at the commencement of the Session. The rest of the report refers simply to the printing of certain documents.

Motion agreed to.

### DEEPENING THE CHANNEL BETWEEN MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

Mr. DESJARDINS. Yesterday I had the honor of enquiring from the Government, whether it was the intention to take up the question of the deepening of the channel between Montreal and Quebec this year, and the hon. Minister of Public Works asked me to defer my question until to-day. With the permission of the House, I would, therefore, ask the hon. Minister if he is now ready to answer my question.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. In answer to my hon. friend, I may say that the Government have taken into consideration the memorials presented by the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal, asking to be authorized to continue the deepening of the channel between Montreal and Quebec to a depth of 27½ feet. This matter having been considered, resolutions will be submitted to this House by which the Government will ask to be authorized to pay from time to time, to the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal, a sum yearly not exceeding \$900,000, which is the amount that the Harbor Commissioners, through their Chief Engineer, declare this deepening will cost, the interest to be at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. This is coupled with the condition that before paying that amount to the Commissioners the Governor in Council shall be satisfied that the calculations, statements and estimates of the engineer of the Commissioners are correct; and, therefore, a Commission will be appointed of two officers of the Government, that is to say, Mr. Page, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals, and Mr. Perley, Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, to certify to those calculations, estimates and statements of the engineer of the Harbor Commissioners.