

town councils of Edmonton, Regina and Winnipeg; and the municipality of Springfield, Manitoba.

3. They recommend the Edmonton route on account of the advantages which would accrue to Canada by its adoption.

4. A small body of Northwest Mounted Police, in command of Inspector J. D. Moodie, was detailed to test the route in the year 1897. His report is contained in the annual report of the Northwest Mounted Police for 1898. A grant of \$15,000 was voted by parliament during the session of 1898 toward the construction of a trail from Edmonton towards the Yukon Territory, which was expended by the government of the Northwest Territories.

5. No pamphlet was issued especially dealing with the Edmonton route. A pamphlet entitled 'The Klondike Official Guide' was prepared by Wm. Ogilvie, D.L.S., and published in 1898 by authority of the Department of the Interior. It contains a description of the various routes to the Yukon, and, among others, gives some description of the Edmonton route.

6. The government neither advised nor discouraged travel by the Edmonton route. The information at the disposal of the government was placed before the public, so that travellers might judge for themselves.

MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN CAPES TRAVERSE AND TORMENTINE.

Mr. LEFURGEY—by Mr. Hackett—asked :

1. How many men were employed in carrying the mails by the iceboats between Capes Traverse and Tormentine during the winter of 1904 ?

2. What are the names and respective post office addresses of the men so employed ?

3. What was the amount of wages paid to each, and were they paid by the day or by the trip ?

4. Who had the contract for carrying the mails between the shore and the iceboats at Cape Traverse during the winter of 1904; also between the iceboats and the shore ?

5. How was said contractor employed, by so much per diem or by the round trip ?

6. If by the day, how much was paid ? If by the trip, the cost of same ?

7. What was the total amount paid to the contractor for said services ?

8. When did this service commence, and on what date did it cease; and on how many days were the mails carried by the capes ?

9. On how many days did the steamships 'Stanley' and 'Minto' fail in crossing between Georgetown and Pictou during the winter of 1904, and what were the dates of same ?

10. While mails were carried by the capes, on how many days did the boats fail in crossing ?

Hon. RAYMOND PREFONTAINE (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). If the hon. gentleman will move for a return, the papers will be laid on the table of the House in a very short time. The information is very voluminous.

Mr. CLARKE.

GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC—EMPLOYMENT OF ALIENS.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the government whether or not any counsel are being employed on the investigation which is now proceeding before Judge Winchester? I have only a knowledge of the character of the proceedings by what I see in the daily press, and I would gather from this that while the people are not represented by counsel the corporation particularly interested is represented by counsel in some of the proceedings at least. I would not think that an investigation of that kind would probably be very effective or that we would get at the bottom of the facts which we desire to be made public unless counsel are employed to assist the judge. A man in the judicial position of Judge Winchester, because he is assuming a judicial position in this investigation, could not very well be expected to properly cross-examine the witnesses called before him. I do not know what the character of the examination is except from what I observe in the daily press, but if the examination of these witnesses is of the character reported, then I would venture to say that the investigation will not amount to very much, and the facts will not be elicited. It is absolutely impossible for the government to establish the facts as they should be established if they simply have important witnesses summoned before Judge Winchester and have that judge administer to these witnesses interrogatories of the somewhat mild and not very far-reaching character which are reported in the press. It may be that the press is not doing him justice, but the investigation is hardly worthy of the name if it is going on as reported in the press. If the investigation is designed to be thorough, I would suppose that the facts would be put into possession of counsel, and that these witnesses would be subject to cross-examination, so that we may have a report in which parliament might afterwards place some confidence as having been thorough and exhaustive. It may be that counsel are employed, but the report in the press does not indicate that.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I can give no information to my hon. friend upon this subject. I will have to confer with the Minister of Labour, and probably to-morrow, I will let my hon. friend know.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. While Judge Winchester is running around the country on a fool's errand, I would suggest to the Prime Minister that if he goes to work and gets Mr. Hays and the auditor of the Grand Trunk to have a statement prepared by one of their clerks, of the names of all the employees on this engineering staff, then in five minutes the House and the country will know who these gentlemen are and where