

calling for copies of all correspondence with the Minister of Railways and Canals, or any officer in his department, in reference to the dismissal of James Ritchie, inspector of masonry on the Trent Valley canal and the appointment of his successor. The order has been ostensibly obeyed and the return brought down, but it is very incomplete. I have in my possession extracts from letters from various persons with reference to this appointment, but there is nothing of these in the return. My right hon. friend will see that when we ask for information we want the whole of the correspondence, and that has not been brought down. The order of the House has not been obeyed in that respect.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I will take a note of it.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like my right hon. friend to make a note of various unanswered returns which the departments might be instructed to get ready during the few days that we are not here. They are in the Department of Railways and the Department of Public Works. One of them refers to the public buildings in places of less than 5,000 inhabitants.

Mr. HYMAN. I hope to have that almost immediately after the re-assembling. It has entailed a good deal of labour. The other return my hon. friend refers to is very voluminous, and its preparation will take a considerable time.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. What are the returns in the Railway Department?

Mr. FOSTER. They refer to the old rails taken up and new ones substituted, and the capital expenditure on the Drummond County's branch of the Intercolonial Railway—those two especially.

ONTARIO FISHING REGULATIONS.

Mr. A. C. BOYCE. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to an article which appeared in the Montreal 'Gazette' of this morning, and also in the Toronto 'News' of last night, with reference to a conflict of jurisdiction in regard to fishing rights and fishing regulations between the Dominion and the province of Ontario. The article is under the heading 'Fishing Rights' and is as follows:

The Fisheries Departments of the Ontario and Dominion governments have the making of a pretty war on their hands. While the province owns the fish and controls the licenses the Dominion has the right to fix the length of the seasons. On the intercession of W. A. Charlton, the former Ontario Commissioner of Public Works, the season for fishing in that part of Lake Erie bordering upon Norfolk county was extended for twenty days after April 15, when it should have closed. When this was brought to his attention Hon. Dr.

Mr. FOSTER.

Rheame, the present minister, telegraphed to the Ottawa department as follows: 'You will have to declare an extension of time for the entire province, or I shall rescind every license. It is equal rights to all, and special privileges to none for me.' A reply from Ottawa has not been received.

I would like to ask the minister what reply he has sent to that telegram from the Minister of Public Works of Ontario, if it has been received, and what policy he has inaugurated for future uniformity of action with regard to fishing regulations between the province and the Dominion. There should be no discrimination against or in favour of any one person or locality. As the Ontario Minister of Public Works pointed out, this is a case of equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

Hon. RAYMOND PREFONTAINE (Minister of Marine and Fisheries). As soon as I arrived at my department this morning, having read in the 'Gazette' the item the hon. gentleman has mentioned, I inquired if such a telegram had been received in the department, and I was informed that it had not; so I could not answer a telegram that had not been received. With regard to the policy of the department in a matter of this kind, it depends on circumstances. Sometimes persons make application for an extension of the close season; these applications are adjudicated upon, and sometimes they are granted and sometimes they are not granted. In this case I have not with me the petition that was presented for the extension, but I suppose that the reasons alleged were well-founded. I may mention that there are some fishing waters where there is no close season at all. It depends entirely upon the circumstances of the case.

THE ICE-BREAKER 'MONTCALM.'

Mr. FOSTER. While the minister is in an answering mood, he may give us some information in reference to that ice-breaker.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. The ice-breaker is all right. She is anchored in clear water and communication is maintained with her by means of small boats, so that there is no danger at all to either the crew or the boat. An explanation of how the recent accident happened will appear in a report which I am getting from the captain. The facts are simply these. The ice-breaker broke the remnant of the ice bridge that had formed during the time she was out of work. About eight or nine hundred feet of ice remained unbroken. She went through that ice and broke it entirely. It created a movement of the whole body of ice which was lying on both sides of the channel, and that closed the channel so that the boat was unable to follow the ice and go back to Quebec. She remained behind and anchored in clear water. That vast mass of ice