

Mr. FOSTER. 'In progress' will not do us much good while we are right in the middle of the debate.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand from the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) that he has ordered everything available to be brought down. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. R. L. Borden) has in mind anything particular, and if he will tell me either to-night or to-morrow, I will try to have it ready.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I will examine the papers that have been brought down and will communicate with the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON. I would remind the Prime Minister of a circular, a manuscript copy of which I have, but which I have not found among the papers. It is dated Regina, 30th of September, 1893, and is signed by Thomas Brown, Secretary of the Council of Public Instruction. I would like to know if it can be found printed among the ordinances or Orders in Councils of the Northwest Territories? I shall be glad to place this manuscript copy in the hands of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) that, if possible, a printed copy may be found and brought down.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12 o'clock, midnight.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, March 23, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

QUESTIONS.

TRANSCONTINENTAL SURVEYS.

Mr. SLOAN asked :

1. Has the government any information that the Grand Trunk Pacific has completed the necessary surveys, or any portion thereof, for the building of the new Transcontinental line in British Columbia?

2. If so, is it the intention of the government to urge the early construction of this section of the Grand Trunk Pacific?

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals). In reply to the hon. gentleman's first question, there appears to be no information on the subject in the department.

As respects the second part of the question, it is the intention of the government to urge the early construction of this as well as of other sections of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

FRUITS MARKS ACT CONVICTIONS.

Mr. GUNN asked :

How many convictions have been made under the Fruit Marks Act to date?

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER. (Minister of Agriculture). Ninety-six, upon information laid by the staff of the fruit division of the department.

In addition to these, there have been convictions upon information laid by others, but the department is not aware of the number, as the cases have not been reported. The department has heard of three such cases.

CIRCULATION OF AMERICAN CURRENCY.

Mr. BICKERDIKE asked :

1. Is the government aware that a very large amount of American currency is at present in circulation at par in Canada?

2. Is it within the knowledge of the government that in most cases Canadian currency is refused in the United States, and when accepted, only taken at a very heavy discount?

3. Is it the intention of the government to introduce a measure the present session for the purpose of preventing the circulation of United States coin in the Dominion?

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance) :

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. It is not the intention of the government to introduce any measure to prohibit the circulation of American coin, but we anticipate that we will be able to make such regulations as will largely displace that coin.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the second reading of Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta, and the amendment of Mr. R. L. Borden thereto.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, in continuing the discussion on this most important question, I do not propose to endeavour to enlighten the House upon any legal points involved in it, beyond a passing reference to some views of the British North America Act as they appear to me and their relation to the Bill now before us. Before commencing the discussion of the subject proper, I would like to refer to some remarks made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) in closing the debate last evening. His speech sounded to me very much like a threat or a doleful foreboding, and it occurred to me that it was delivered for the purpose of holding his own followers together rather than of fore-shadowing what might be the result in the event of this Bill being defeated. He used