

tario institutions, as well as the lumbermen of that district, and so long as I have the criminal law to protect me, which is a big thing in a fight, and the absence of the protection of which has been a serious thing in the past, I care not whether the Minister of Customs says I am not a gentleman, and I invite him and the other ministers—the Prime Minister and the Minister of Customs and the rest of the government—who always flatter me by coming into my county, to come there again. I have no fear of the result on an appeal to the people of East Simcoe. I do not thank the Minister of Customs for attempting to get personal with me to-day. Our intercourse across the floor has always been friendly, and if the minister tries these tactics on me, I am prepared to meet him, and I can tell him he will not be alone in the fight.

Mr. PATERSON. One word in reply. Who commenced this thing?

Mr. BENNETT. You did.

Mr. PATERSON. Oh, no. I have only this to say, that I believe the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) is correct when he says that what I say will not make much impression on him. Well, what I did say was for the benefit of gentlemen opposite who recognize what is proper and what is not. I did not say it for the benefit of the gentleman who himself acknowledges that he is past being helped in that direction. While the hon. gentleman says that he forgot that he had asked that question, he will remember that the very part that he alluded to was where I said that it was not usual to give the names of individual importers, which he had asked for. That is how it came out. How is it that he saw the answer to that part of the question and forgot about the question? I might ask him that.

Mr. H. H. MILLER. The hon. member for East Simcoe has stated that Mr. McKay, of Owen Sound, is in Ottawa to-day and has endeavoured to make out that he is after some dredging contracts, and that this is not the first time that he has been here on the same business. I do not know whether Mr. McKay owns or is interested in a dredge or not. I do know, and it is well known, that Mr. McKay's presence in Ottawa to-day is for the purpose of transacting important business before the Railway Committee in the interest of the citizens of Owen Sound and the town of Meaford. Mr. McKay was accompanied on that business by another prominent resident of Owen Sound. He has before this been accompanied to Ottawa in reference to the same Bill by prominent citizens of Owen Sound and the town of Meaford, some Reformers and some Conservatives; and after a similar visit to Ottawa, Mr. McKay was publicly thanked by a prominent Conservative of Owen Sound for the manner in which he attended to the

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business before the Railway Committee. The hon. member for East Simcoe who appears to have a very lively and not always well guided imagination, has, I presume, made all his insinuations to-day upon charges equally baseless and without any foundation in fact.

Motion (Mr. Clements) to adjourn, negatived.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to a return that was brought down in answer to an order of the House in reference to the correspondence that took place before, during and after the dismissal of a mason inspector at Gamebridge. That return is very incomplete. I called the attention of the First Minister to it about a fortnight ago, and I have since had no answer as to the missing parts of the return. I would like the minister to have the return completed and brought down as soon as possible. The returns ordered in February and March, to which I alluded at the same time, are all yet on the list of the not-brought-downs—one in reference to public buildings, one in reference to rails on the Intercolonial, one in reference to the capital expenditure on the Drummond Counties Railway, and one in reference to the building of wharfs and public buildings. These have been ordered for nearly two months, and I think they ought to be on the way down.

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals). With reference to the return relating to the mason inspector, my information from the deputy minister was that the whole correspondence was included in the return. I have not been able to question him further because of his absence since the attention of the House was called to the matter by my hon. friend. I have the return with respect to the expenditures on the Drummond Counties section of the Intercolonial Railway, which I shall take the liberty now of laying on the table of the House. This only came into my hands yesterday afternoon. The return with respect to rails is one that I have repeatedly asked Mr. Pottinger for, and he has stated that he is furnishing it with all the expedition possible, but that it covers a wide field and the information takes a great deal of time and labour to secure. I have urged him to have it forwarded as soon as possible.

Mr. FOSTER. With reference to the return of which the minister has spoken, there must be some mistake, because I have in my possession two or three letters and allusions to other letters, and it is the latter I want brought down.