

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said the Government had acted upon previous information. Certainly, of the two routes, that they had selected was best for a ship canal. It was best, also, for a smaller canal. There would be no objection whatever in furnishing the papers now asked for.

The motion was carried.

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OBSTRUCTION OF NIAGARA RIVER

Mr. CHARLTON moved for any correspondence which may have taken place between the Government and the Common Council of the city of Buffalo, relating to the obstruction of the navigation of Niagara River by the erection of a crib in the mid-channel of the said stream for the Buffalo city waterworks.

He observed that his object in making the motion was to bring the attention of the Government to the fact that the navigation of Niagara River was likely to be seriously obstructed by the erection of this crib. The river at this point was narrow, and a short distance below it the International bridge was being erected, and it and the crib would form a very serious obstacle to navigation, especially as far as lumber rafts were concerned. The timber trade passing down the river was of great and growing importance. A large amount of square timber was now being shipped in rafts from Michigan, and the trade was likely to extend to the Canadian shores of the Georgian Bay.

If this crib were allowed to be constructed it would entail great expense upon owners of rafts, compelling them to take the rafts apart and float the lumber down in small tugs. It would be a serious obstruction to navigation, and ought not to be allowed to be placed there without a protest.

The motion was carried.

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REPORT FROM THE SENATE

The SPEAKER read a message from the Senate announcing the names of the Senate portion of the joint Committee on Printing.

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PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND

The orders of the day being called,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE asked the leader of the Government if it was his intention to lay before the House any information concerning the recent negotiations with Prince Edward's Island. He was astonished to find in newspapers of that Province as well as in other eastern newspapers a statement showing that negotiations had taken place between the two Governments. These statements also represented that certain offers had been made to the Government of

Prince Edward's Island, on condition of their entering Confederation.

It did seem to him very extraordinary that while the Parliament was sitting such important documents should be withheld from the House and communicated to the public newspapers. He desired to ask if the published statements were authentic and why the information had not been communicated to this House.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the inquiry was a very natural one. The Government of the Island of Prince Edward has sent two of their members to Ottawa, and they have had negotiations with the Government here on the Union of Prince Edward's Island with the Dominion.

Certain conditional arrangements were entered into and these gentlemen went home for the purpose of submitting them to their colleagues, and they in turn had made up their minds to submit them to the people before they would be laid before the Legislature. These terms would therefore be laid before that body after the elections, and it was obviously a matter of importance to that Government that they should choose their own time and their own mode of submitting the propositions of the Dominion Government to their people; therefore he did not deem it advisable to place these provisional returns before the Parliament here until the Government had ascertained that they had been presented to the public of Prince Edward's Island.

Of course the Government of Prince Edward's Island had the great task of submitting the question to the people and going to the country upon it, and he thought it might be thwarting greatly the object they all had in view if there were a premature publication. It was a matter of little consequence whether one or the other party published these terms first. He expected information from the Government of Prince Edward's Island in a short time, and after his Government had received that, they would be in a position, without injury to the great cause of union, to submit the papers to this House.

Mr. MILLS said it would be contrary to law for the Government to initiate such a measure. That motion belongs to Parliament and not to the Government.

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN said the people of Prince Edward's Island might receive a very improper impression from the report of the speech of the leader of the Government. The newspapers of Prince Edward's Island published the proposed terms, and the Government had gone to the country upon these terms. If the people of Prince Edward's Island heard that the Minister of Justice thought it might possibly damage the cause of Confederation in that Province by announcing to the House whether their public statement were correct or incorrect, they might suppose there was some doubt as to their correctness.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he had not even seen the statements in the newspapers. All he knew was that provisional arrangement had been entered into by the gentlemen from Prince