

Mr. SINCLAIR urged the importance of hon. members being courteous in their language to one another. The manner of the member for Prescott might be peculiar, but he had seen nothing in it that was discourteous. He would like the Attorney-General to speak to young members in a less twitting way. When he (Mr. Sinclair) spoke for the first time on the address, the hon. gentleman put him and another member in mind that they ought to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with matters before they made inquiries. In his (Mr. Sinclair's) case, that observation was uncalled for, because he perfectly understood the matter in reference to which he was speaking.

Mr. BOYD said if the member for Lincoln were disposed to run a tilt with him, he (Mr. Boyd) would not be afraid to enter the lists. He was sorry to see the hon. gentleman so ready a pupil of the Attorney-General, and copying the example of that hon. gentleman in throwing cold water on the arguments which he (Mr. Boyd) under the impulse of a somewhat impetuous Irish nature presented to the house. It was not becoming in the hon. gentleman to throw impediments in the way of those who desired to elicit information from the Government. He (Mr. Boyd) hoped he would be able at all times to discharge his duty faithfully to his country in a way that would draw forth, not the ironical amen of the Attorney-General, but a hearty full-souled amen, as a testimony to his doing his duty without fear or favour, without pandering to the Government or asking favours of the Government, which he never would. (Hear, hear).

Hon. Mr. BICHARDS said he had no objection to the address passing, although it was covered by the address passed yesterday on the motion of the member for Lincoln, as the information asked for could be brought down in a very short time.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH thought, as the Attorney General had stated that no licenses had been granted since the 1st July, which was the point on which the motion sought information, that it might as well be withdrawn.

The motion was then withdrawn.

OTTAWA BOOMS AND SLIDES.

Mr. BOYD moved an address for a statement showing the amount invested by the Government in slides and booms on the Ontario side of the River Ottawa; also, a statement of the annual income derived by the Government for said slides and booms.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said the Ontario Government had invested no money in slides and booms, and had not received a cent of revenue from either.

Mr. BOYD said his object was to find out what amount in the shape of investment in these slides and booms would fall to this Government; also, the amount of revenue the investment had been yielding. The report had gone over the country that the Government investments on the Ottawa River had been a kind of sinking fund, and, knowing that such was not the case, his object was to have a return brought down which would show that the investment was a paying one. With the permission of the House, he would amend his motion, so as to meet the objection of the Attorney General.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD—The Ottawa River belongs to the Canadian Government. We have no control over it, and cannot grant the return asked for.

Mr. MCKELLAR said, if the hon. member for Prescott would refer to the Public Accounts he would get all the information he asked for. As regarded the profits of these works, if he remembered rightly, the Ottawa slides yielded a return of 2½ or 2¾ per cent. Other slides, constructed by the Government, had yielded no direct revenue at all. This Government could not very well give the information asked for about these works.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—They belong to the Dominion.

Mr. MCKELLAR said, the revenue from these works last year was, he believed, \$67,000, and, after deducting the expenses, the net revenue was \$36,000 or \$37,000. Of course, they belonged to the Dominion.

The motion was then withdrawn.

SHEEP BILL—MAGISTRATES' FEES.

Mr. BOYD moved an address for a return of fees paid to magistrates during the past year for convictions in cases of sheep killed by dogs—and from what fund said fees were paid—said returns to be procured from clerks of township councils. He said he knew of cases in which magistrates had charged large

fees for investigating the cases of sheep killed by dogs—in one case, something like \$40. He presumed this had been paid out of the dog tax fund, and he wished to ascertain how much of that fund had been thus misdirected.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said there was a good deal of force in the remarks which had been made by the member for South Grey (Mr. Laufer), about a number of these motions. It appeared to him that, before members made motions for addresses to His Excellency, they should satisfy themselves that the Government or the house had the power of enforcing returns to be made of the information sought for. This dog tax fund belonged to the municipalities, and the Act of Parliament which created the fund, gave no power to the House to ask returns about it. If a magistrate did wrong, an information could be laid, and he would be prosecuted; or he could be reported to the Government and dismissed. But the house could not ask clerks of councils or magistrates for this information, on penalty of their being brought to the bar and punished, in case of refusal.

Mr. BOYD said he would not press the motion. If the Attorney-General, however, would look into the amended Act, he would find that clerks of municipalities had to keep a record of the whole procedure in such cases, and that magistrates had to make returns of the convictions to the quarter sessions, the same as of other convictions. This being the case, he had thought that the house might call for these returns.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said returns of the convictions could be got, but that would not meet the object his hon. friend had in view.

Mr. FERGUSON said convictions were not made except in cases where the murder of the sheep could be traced to the dog which committed it, and his owner was known; and this did not occur in more than one case in a hundred. The return of the convictions, therefore, would not show what the hon. member for Prescott wanted. He would be glad if there could be any means of ascertaining what magistrates had taken excessive fees, that their names might be published. Mr. Ferguson went on to say that he thought the Sheep Act had failed to meet the expectations of the people, and that he hoped the Bill he had himself introduced on the subject to day would give more satisfaction.

Mr. BLAKE could not admit that the powers of the house were so limited, as might be inferred from the remarks of the Attorney-General. He considered that any public officer, holding his appointment either under the Crown, or in virtue of any statute, could be compelled by proper process to bring before the house full returns on any subject which the house might think, for the good of the country, should be inquired into. He read from May's Parliamentary Practice, to show that this was the doctrine carried out in England. He knew that the extent of the privileges of this Parliament was somewhat vague, but he hoped they would not lightly throw away the inquisitorial power which he assumed this House possessed of asking returns from all public officers.

Mr. BOYD said his object had been accomplished by the expression of opinion which had been elicited, and, with the leave of the House, he would withdraw the motion.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said the course adopted by his hon. friend was quite correct. It was quite competent for an hon. member to move an address, not with the view of carrying it, but with the view of eliciting information, or an expression of opinion from the Government, or other members of the House. His hon. friend from South Bruce (Mr. Blake) would find there was a good deal in May, that was not in force in this country. He (Mr. McDONALD) had been a good while in Parliament, and had never known a motion of this kind carried. Magistrates were not held to be public functionaries in the sense that they could be called upon by the house to give information; and municipalities were quasi private corporations, whose officers were not under the control of Parliament in that sense.

Mr. BLAKE said the fact of such a motion never having been passed was no answer to the right of the house to order it.

The motion was then withdrawn.

CROWN LAND SALES, &c.

Mr. BOYD moved an address for a return of the names and residences of the Crown Lands Agents, the salaries they receive, the