

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gagnon): The hon. gentleman is out of order in discussing carpets when we are speaking of statutes.

Mr. CAHAN: The matters of which the hon. gentleman complains have nothing to do with my department or with this vote; they are entirely under the supervision of the internal economy committee of this house, which is composed of his own fellow members.

Mr. POULIOT: I wish to tell the minister that I am not putting the blame on him at all. In reply to the chairman I will only say this: I was not speaking of general merchandise or rugs as such but by way of comparison, and I am saying that it is more expensive to buy a rug for \$480 than to supply members of this house with bound Hansards in both languages.

Item agreed to.

Distribution of official documents, \$39,000.

Mr. CAHAN: This vote has been cut down from \$42,500, a reduction of \$3,500, owing to the fact that we have made a careful revision of the official lists of documents being sent out. As a result of deaths and from other causes the list has been reduced.

Item agreed to.

Printing and binding official publications for sale and distribution to departments and the public, \$42,750.

Mr. CAHAN: This is money that comes back into the treasury.

Item agreed to.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, \$351,000.

Mr. BOUCHARD: Reading the bulletins that are issued, one is apt to conclude that we are getting out of the crisis very quickly, that we are on the upgrade, and one is apt to take a very optimistic view of conditions in Canada. I do not object to that at all, but I am wondering whether that is part of the policy of statistical makebelieve, designed to make a good showing. I should like to see the statistics a little more, I will not say accurate but more in keeping with the actual facts. Is it the decided policy of the department to publish only such statistics as make a good showing?

Mr. STEVENS: The statistics are published accurately and strictly in accordance with the facts, and there is a large number of publications on various subjects which are put out as regularly as clockwork monthly and even weekly in some cases. These are

very voluminous. The bulletin is a summarization of them for the convenience chiefly of the press.

Mr. BOUCHARD: I am referring more particularly to the bulletin; I will not make any observations on the statistics in general. I am wondering whether the bulletin shows the facts exactly as they are or whether it is intended to give people abroad the idea that everything is on the upgrade and that everything is all right with Canada—on the eve of an election, though I would not blame the minister for taking that precaution.

Mr. STEVENS: A survey of all issues of this kind, such as Irving Fisher's and the American Bureau, the London Economist's publications and all standard publications, shows that in about 80 per cent of them there is indicated a general tendency to rise. I do not think it is pretended by anyone that the rise is rapid, but there is a general indication, purely statistical, of a slight and continuous upward curve; and in our publication we are following as closely and accurately as we can the day-to-day or week-to-week statistical record.

Mr. NEILL: I must confess that I formed an opinion somewhat similar to that expressed by my hon friend (Mr. Bouchard). It seemed to me that the selection of the items in that bulletin was calculated to form good propaganda for the coming election, to put it bluntly. I wish to refer to the subject that was discussed the last time the minister's estimates were under consideration. I complained that the information given in one of the minister's publications differed considerably from the information given in another one or in others, and I instanced three cases of the export of canned salmon. I gave the quarter ending in June, the quarter ending in September and the record for nine months ending September, and I showed that there was a discrepancy, not trivial but running as high as 60 per cent. That was on the 24th, and on the 27th, on the orders of the day, the minister brought the matter up and was allowed nearly two pages of Hansard to explain the situation and to show that I was mistaken. I wonder if I would have been allowed to use two pages on the orders of the day.

Mr. STEVENS: I was doing it at the request of the hon. gentleman, he will note.

Mr. NEILL: Yes, he said that, but I could not find where I had made a request in the matter. I made a statement.