

HON. MR. POWER—There is just one point in connection with the Department to which I desire to call the attention of the leader of the House, with a view, perhaps, if he thinks the suggestion one of value, to having it communicated to the Minister of the Interior. Hon. gentlemen are aware that the reports of this Department now appear in two different forms. At one time the reports appeared in only one form. That was a large volume published at the close of the year, or some time after the close of the year, and each large volume embodied the transactions of the whole year and of all the officers in the employ of the Survey whose reports were thought worthy of being made public. During the last two or three years a different system has been adopted, and there are several reports of individual officers now published. For instance, there are very valuable reports of the officer who has been at work in British Columbia for the last two or three years, which have been published by themselves; and the reports of other officers employed in different sections of the Dominion, the North West and, I think, the Maritime Provinces, have been published separately. These reports are necessarily smaller volumes than the one which embodies them all, as well as the report of the Director. They are comparatively cheap, and they are of very great interest to people in those regions to which they relate. Now, I have been informed that heretofore these individual reports, if one may so call them, which have been printed, one would suppose, for the purpose of being distributed in the places where they would be most valuable, have nearly all been stored in the rooms of the Geological Survey at Ottawa, and have not got to the people for whom they were intended. I should suggest that a better way would be to cause these individual reports to be distributed in the places where they are calculated to do the most good. They cost very little, and they are more likely to be read than the large book. The report with respect to British Columbia, for instance, would probably be read by thousands in that Province, and the same would be the case with reports which relate to other Provinces. Instead of distributing the large volumes and not distributing the small ones, I think the better way would be to issue the smaller volumes and distribute them where they

are most needed. That would apply not only to the future; but a few of the several thousands lying in the vaults of the Geological Survey might be distributed in the near future in the Provinces to which they relate.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I shall have great pleasure in bringing the matter to which my hon. friend refers to the notice of the Minister of the Interior. I am sure that he will cause enquiries to be made, and if there are copies available for distribution I think he will consider my hon. friend's suggestion a very judicious one.

HON. MR. READ, from the committee, reported the Bill with amendments, which were concurred in.

The Bill was then read the third time, and passed.

STEAMBOAT INSPECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (O) "An Act to amend the Steamboat Inspection Act, Chap. 78, Revised Statutes."

(In the Committee.)

On the 1st clause,—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—There have been numerous complaints with reference to these certificates, on the ground that an inferior class of engineers from over the line have flocked into this country and have been certificated. In fact, numbers finding some difficulty perhaps in getting employment in their own country, get certificates here, so supplanting our own people, and diminishing the chances of employment which they perhaps have a right to possess, more especially as they are unable to retort in kind upon their southern competitors, as no Canadian engineer can be certificated in the United States without taking the oath of allegiance there. At present there is no restriction whatever upon foreign engineers coming into this country and being certificated or employed here, without any such ceremony at all. The subject has been under the notice of the Government, and it has been very carefully considered, but it is not proposed to make a rule so stringent as that which