

lected that, since 1876-7, the work had greatly increased, in consequence of a great many more insurance offices being brought under the operation of the Act. He was not prepared to say the exact figure required, but his impression was that it would be something over \$9,000, and, as it was inconvenient to be taking supplementary votes, he proposed that the item should be allowed to stand as placed on the Estimates; and if, next year, it was found to be materially less than \$10,000, it could be reduced.

MR. MITCHELL asked if it was a fact that several foreign companies had given notice to withdraw their deposits?

MR. CARTWRIGHT said such was the case, but they could not withdraw till they had satisfied the claims of Canadian holders.

MR. LANGEVIN said that if a larger sum than was necessary was voted there would be a tendency on the part of the officers to spend more than they actually required.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said that though \$10,000 were voted in 1876-7, the Department were not induced to expend that sum. He would, however, look into the matter before concurrence, and if he found that the gentleman's suggestions were practicable he would adopt them.

MR. PLUMB said that with respect to the inspection of these insurance companies, he would like to ask whether the Government took the responsibility of sending out officers to inspect these companies, and in what manner was the inspection carried on.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said the Inspector visited all these companies once a year, and sometimes oftener, and made an examination into their condition. They were also obliged to return him a detailed statement of their affairs, and the Government possessed power to demand further information if they were of opinion that the information supplied was not sufficiently full. This was the present mode, and, he might add, that it had been productive of beneficial effect; several companies that probably would

MR. CARTWRIGHT.

have gone on and become hopelessly insolvent, had been induced to put themselves into a solvent state or to discontinue the business. The work was done by the officers of the Department, and at present it had not been necessary to call in other assistance, although it might be necessary under certain circumstances.

MR. MITCHELL said he had to complain each year that there was a company at St. Catharines which extended its operations all over the country, in all cases refusing to pay its claims. It sheltered itself under the plea that they had received a charter from the Parliament of Ontario, and, therefore, the parties who had effected insurances had no hold upon them. The company admitted claims against them, but refused to pay.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said the power the Government had over these companies was in refusing the license. In the present case all the Government could do was to notify the company that they must cease doing business in the way they were doing. He believed it was notified by the Minister of Justice to cease operations. It was his opinion that parties would have a good ground of action against the company for obtaining money by false pretences.

Vote agreed to.

XXI. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

150. Geological Survey..... \$50,000

MR. LANGEVIN said that \$6,050 was a large amount for maps and reports. Perhaps the hon. Minister would state the number of these maps that were published, where published, and how they were distributed.

MR. MILLS said they were now printed at Montreal; each member of the House received two copies, and sometimes more. He believed 4,000 were printed, but he would bring down the whole details of the information asked for.

MR. CURRIER asked what arrangements had been made for removing the geological museum to Ottawa. It was said last year, that arrangements were about being made for its removal.