

ment of that country, a country two thousand miles away from the capital of the North-west Territories, he is not talking seriously.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I take the hon. gentleman's own statement. About the first statement he made was that the Yukon territory came within the limits of the North-west Territories Government. Now he denies the district being within the domain of the North-west Territories. My hon. friend says that this session the government intend to bring down legislation to remedy this same difficulty.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I said technically it came within the North-west Territories, but the government of the North-west Territories never undertook to exercise sovereignty there.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I told my hon. friend that two officers of the North-west Territories, one of them the license inspector of the territories, and the other a member of the executive, had gone up there for the purpose of enforcing the law regulating permits, and I daresay the government is aware of the fact.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, I never heard of it.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—It is within the memory of hon. gentlemen here that about the middle of February I asked a question in regard to the number of permits granted and to whom granted and the quantity, and the revenue derived from it. The hon. gentleman told me then, as he told the hon. leader of the opposition to-day, to put the notice in the form of an address. To-day that question is unanswered, excepting verbally by the hon. gentleman, who says no permits have been granted, while the hon. Secretary of State said there had been permits granted. It should not be a very voluminous document to prepare. The papers should be laid on the table of the House, and we should not be asked to take the mere verbal answer which I received the other day.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—We are not objecting to the motion. It has not yet been put by the chair.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I put the question pure and simple to the

hon. Minister of Justice, and when he said he did not know, I asked if the Secretary of State, who was in the government at the time, could give the information. The hon. Secretary of State rose and gave us a long dissertation upon the question of the boundary and the dispute as to where it really exists. He did not approach the question I put, either directly or indirectly. He has an exceedingly happy faculty of evading a question of any kind by making a long speech, not at all relevant to the question asked. Can he answer the simple question, were any instructions given to Major Walsh when he left for the North-west, and, if so, were they oral or written, and, if written, will he bring them down? No; I cannot ask that question as to whether he will bring them down, because he has already answered. If such instructions exist, I will move for them. If the hon. gentleman says he went there without instructions, there is no necessity of wasting time. That is the only question I asked, and I did not ask for a lecture upon the boundary question, and when the hon. gentleman accuses me of trying to divert the debate into another line, I think he had better apply that to himself. My habit is to put questions directly, and all I want is yes or no. The next time I ask a question relating to the Yukon district, probably he will give us a dissertation on preferential tariffs or free trade, or how far the tariff affects the favoured nation treaties. The speech he made had just as much to do with the questions I asked as if he had given us a lecture upon Timbuctoo, or some other place. Can he answer the question whether Major Walsh received any instructions, and, if so, what they were? If he says it is not in the public interest that they should be made public, I will not insist.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman knows that no single member of the government is aware of every act that has been done by the administration. I know generally of the sending of Major Walsh there. At one time the Americans said that Dawson City belonged to the United States.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—What has that to do with your instructions to Major Walsh?