

would be of great value to the public, and which would not be published without Government aid, there would be nothing inconsistent in its undertaking to promote its publication by pledging itself to the purchase of a certain number of copies. Yet I am not aware of the hon. the Minister of Agriculture having made any such arrangement.

MR. MILLS: If the hon. the Minister of Agriculture has been doing business in this way we are anxious to know it; and there should be no objection to pass this motion. If the Government have been doing business with ambitious literary young men, and contributing liberally towards the financial success of their efforts, we should know it. When private individuals subscribe for works in advance, it is out of their own pockets; but Ministers subscribe with the public money, not touching their own salaries for the purpose, and, if the Ministers were employing men to write immigration pamphlets containing emigration advertisements, the people whose money is taken should know it.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I will illustrate my meaning by supposing that a gentleman like the mover of this resolution were to approach the Government with the statement that, after spending two or three months visiting a very important section of the country, which it was very desirable in its interests to bring prominently before the public, he was prepared to publish a pamphlet upon it, resembling the one he has published; in such a case I should favourably entertain the proposal of a gentleman who had established his claim so thoroughly to the attention of the public, and should approve of a certain amount of expenditure for that purpose.

MR. MASSON: If the Government had made a mistake in purchasing a pamphlet, before knowing its contents, it would be but following the example of the House itself, as the Library Committee ordered in advance 400 copies of a book that was to be published by Mr. Todd, our able Librarian.

MR. POPE: I hope the hon. gentleman will amend his motion, in the first place by not asking me to bring down what I have not got, and, in the second place, by asking for all the pamphlets, etc., published since 1875.

MR. KIRKPATRICK: I think we have a good precedent for the Government acting in the manner they have done. The hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) will bear me out in saying that a Government in Ontario engaged a certain hon. gentleman in this House to write a book for them, and decided to pay him for it before knowing what its contents might be. I am sure the Dominion Government could not have been far wrong in paying a much smaller sum for a pamphlet in advance of a knowledge of its contents.

MR. TROW: No pamphlet, book, or paper of any kind or description that is not reliable should be circulated to encourage emigration. I have heard that the Government pamphlet advertises lands in Nebraska, Dakota and other parts of the United States, and, if so, it was not the place of this Government to encourage the circulation of such works. Government ought not to help to issue or circulate any publication without having been thoroughly examined and revised by the Secretary of the Department, and the contents should treat exclusively of our own country.

MR. BLAKE: The case to which the member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) refers was a case in which a gentleman was employed to compile information with reference to a question affecting the interests of the public. The cases to which allusion has been made in this discussion, or some of them, are cases in which works were prepared by persons not employed by Government, on the most conspicuous parts of which are advertisements of United States lands. I believe that 5,000 copies of one of those works have been purchased by the Government for distribution, with a view to promote immigration to the North-West Territories. This book contains flaming advertisements of lands in the Western States. It does not appear to be a judicious thing for the Government to circulate that kind of pamphlet.

MR. POPE: The hon. member for West Durham has not made much of that remark. I might go through every word of a pamphlet, and, as was the case in this instance, know nothing of what the publisher was going to advertise on the cover. The hon. gentleman opposite might do the same thing.