

I repeat, if we are to credit the newspaper reports and the reasons given by the organs of the government, he is sent there, with almost plenary powers, to do what he pleases. If he is not, will the hon. gentleman kindly tell us what his functions are, and what his instructions are, and how far he is entrusted with the administration of law and order in that country?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I think my hon. friend had better put a notice on the paper, and we will discuss the subject, and I will bring down any information which the hon. gentleman desires. Major Walsh is there associated with the North-west mounted police, and one of the judges of the North-west Territories is there for the purpose of administering justice under the law. I am not aware that there is any violation of any statutory law that has taken place in anything that has been done.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I did not say there was.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Those men are there on the ground ready, perhaps, to have further duties imposed on them as soon as parliament legislates.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Then I understand the Minister of Justice to say that Major Walsh is there under instructions, and that if I move for the papers he will bring down those instructions?

Hon. Mr. ALMON—May I ask the Minister of Justice if the parties who have those licenses are permitted to sell beer and cider?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I dare say.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I should like to have an answer to my question. I understood the Minister of Justice to say that if I moved for the papers he would bring them down. The inference from that is that there are papers and that instructions were given to Major Walsh in writing when he went to the Yukon territory, and if such be the case, he will bring them down if I move for them.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I shall be ready to bring down any paper that can be brought down consistently with the public interest.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—May I draw the inference that there are papers showing what his instructions are?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I do not know. Major Walsh was appointed before I became Minister of Justice. If the hon. gentleman will put a notice on the paper I will comply with his request as far as possible.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Will the hon. gentleman say that such papers exist?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I cannot state at this moment the character of the instructions which Major Walsh has received. Major Walsh is there associated with the North-west mounted police.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Cannot his colleague tell us?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman seems to ignore entirely the condition of that country last summer, from the extraordinary manner in which he is conducting this debate. It is well known that thousands of men were rushing into that territory and that Canada's sovereignty of that country was being disputed. It became necessary for this government to act promptly and we did so in the interest of this country and to retain the sovereignty of that country by Canada. Major Walsh was selected because he was familiar with the condition of things in North-west in times gone by when there was danger of trouble there, and he was known to be a man of nerve, judgment and force of character and familiar with all the circumstances which prevail there, and so he was appointed to take charge of the mounted police in that territory. He was, moreover, directed to advise the government as his judgment might prompt him when he got there. He was to remain there until order was restored to that country, and I think the fact of his having been sent there has shown the people of Canada that no better policy could have been adopted than selecting Major Walsh and connecting him with a body of police when he went into that country. We could not wait until parliament met. Was the government to lie on its arms and do nothing until parliament met and passed an act defining what powers should be given for the administrator of the Yukon district? It was idle to talk of the North-west govern-