

House whether permits have been issued by the Dominion government and also whether that power has been exercised by the North-west Territories? Under the North-west Territories Act, as it now stands on the statute book, that power would be vested in the government of the North-west Territories, and not in the Dominion government.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Vested in the lieutenant governor of the North-west Territories.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The hon. Minister of Justice stated yesterday that no permit had been given to a Mr. Chamberland, but he said that a permit had been granted to a Mr. Chambers, and I understood him to say that that permit was granted by the Dominion government. Was that the reply?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I gave the hon. gentleman the answer that was put into my hands, by my colleague, from the department of the Interior, whether that referred to the North-west Territories or to the Yukon country. I suppose it related to the Yukon country, from the question put by the hon. gentleman, and in that event the permit would be issued by some officer in that territory, but as to the whole matter I cannot say. I am not aware that any permits have been issued in the Yukon country by the government of Canada; I do not think any have been. I am speaking, however, without having inquired specially on the subject. If my hon. friend wants information on these subjects, which are outside of my department altogether, he will have to give notice, and I will get the information for him.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—That information will be covered by this motion?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Yes, I think so.

The motion was agreed to.

SUB-AQUEOUS MINING CLAIMS ON YUKON RIVER.

ENQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Before the House adjourns there is a matter of some importance to which I desire to call

the attention of the Minister of Justice. I presume the regulations for mining in the Yukon have been approved by the Governor in Council, and that there can be no deviation from those rules without having recourse to the Governor General in Council in the same way. In these regulations I see that no one can take up a sub-aqueous mining claim of more than five miles in a river; but a company or person can take up thirty miles of the river, and no more. That is stated emphatically in the regulations. I observe two or three reports in the newspapers to the effect that Chevalier Drolet had got a lease of 150 miles, and a Mr. Russell had obtained a lease of 380 miles in the Yukon, and Mr. Mercier of Quebec had received a lease of 280 miles. How could these persons have received these leases—if they have done so—when the regulations say that they can only receive thirty miles? I hope the Minister of Justice will be able to tell us that these reports are quite unfounded.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—This is a question which is not on the notice paper. I am wholly unable to answer it, but I do not think it at all probable that any such leases as he mentions have been made. However, I will make enquiry and will be able to give the hon. gentleman the information when we meet again.

Hon. Mr. POWER—With respect to the case of Chevalier Drolet, I think I noticed the paragraph to which my hon. friend refers, and my remembrance of it is that his right to dredge was in the Saskatchewan River.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That is in the North-west also.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It is a notorious fact that the government are making leases of nearly all the rivers in the North-west. In view of the rapid development of those mining claims, it seems to me the government is recklessly alienating very important interests which certainly deserve greater consideration than they are receiving. It is utterly impossible from the statements already made by the Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State that the government can possibly have any information with regard to the interests which they are disposing of in very large quantities,