

Mr. CHARLTON. I am very glad to hear the information. I consider that one of the most interesting fields of exploration we have left. It is an unknown land to us, and it is very likely to develop some very valuable resources in that country. Could the hon. Minister state what portion of this vote will be applicable to geological explorations, and how much we are to pay for the collection?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. These are the only purchases; all the rest will be for the geological survey, paying for its equipment, &c. The vote is double what it was last year.

Mr. CHARLTON. Another point is with reference to the publication of the Geological report. I see, in the Public Accounts for the year ending 30th June last, the sum of \$11,241.87 for the publication of the Geological report, and I presume the hon. Minister will be in a position to inform us as to where this report is published, and as to the number of copies.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The report has always been published in Montreal. The Geological Department was stationed in Montreal, and as the report contains a great many scientific and technical terms, it was important that the proof reading should be under the direction of competent gentlemen whose interest and character were dependent upon the correct issuing of the report, and that has hitherto been done at Montreal. As to the number of copies, I really cannot tell the hon. gentleman; I will be able to tell him to-night.

Mr. CHARLTON. The necessity of publishing this report at Montreal no longer exists since the Department has been located in Ottawa, and it strikes me that since the Department has been removed to Ottawa the publication should also be done in Ottawa.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not suppose it is a matter of great interest to the House or country where the report is printed. It will be well printed, and printed at a reasonable rate, and I suppose that is all we care for. I am not at all sure that the present printing resources of Ottawa could get up that report.

Mr. BLAKE. The excuse always given for the printing of the Geological Report at Montreal was, that it should be printed where the Geological Survey was stationed, where the staff was, &c. I do not know whether that excuse was true or not, but if it be true—

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It was the excuse the hon. gentleman's Government gave at the time.

Mr. BLAKE. I say I do not know whether it was true or not; but if it was, as I suppose it was, it is impossible for the report to be printed in Montreal now, because the staff has been removed to Ottawa.

Mr. CHARLTON. It is quite evident that the publication of the report in Montreal, with the staff located in Ottawa, is inconvenient and delays the work; because we have not received that report yet, and probably will not receive it for some weeks. It ought to have been in the hands of the members of the House while we were discussing this item.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I may say to my hon. friend that I am very much afraid it would not be expedited by handing it over to all the printing strength in Ottawa that exists now.

Mr. CHARLTON. I understand the Department is printing about 5,000 copies at a cost of a little less than \$2.50 each, which is certainly an extravagant price for a volume of that size. I think if we had the printing of that work done in Ottawa, and advertised for tenders and got it done by contract, instead of printing it at confidential rates, and 50 per cent. more than the price we could get it done for, I think the country would be the gainers. We could get the work done just as well, if not better, and we could have the

volume in our hands at a much earlier period. This is part of a system that has grown up—I do not say who is responsible for it—of giving out printing without taking the precaution to advertise for tenders and get the work done by the lowest responsible bidder, and at the lowest possible price. It is a system that has cost the country a good deal of money. I do not suppose this book is done by tender; I suppose it is handed out to some printer—he may possibly be a friend of the Government—who does this work in Montreal, and may possibly make a very large sum of money out of it; I should judge that he does if he gets \$2.50 for a volume of that size. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that in future he get the printing of this book done in Ottawa by the Government printer, and at contract rates, in order to secure despatch and a large saving of money.

Mr. CASEY. I have always supposed it was because we had a Government printer here that it was necessary to offer any excuse for having this printing done elsewhere. As to the inconvenience, I fancy it must be about as inconvenient to have the work done in Montreal when the Department is at Ottawa, as it would be to have the work printed in Ottawa and the Department in Montreal. It is just about as far from Ottawa to Montreal as it is from Montreal to Ottawa. But I would like to get some information out of the hon. Minister about this collection of Mr. Hirschfelder's, for which he says \$6,000 is to be paid. I think he said that collection was made on the Indian lands, by which he means, I suppose, the lands not yet acquired from the Indians.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I really cannot tell the hon. gentleman over what area this botanical collection was made. It was on the recommendation and the valuation of Dr. Selwyn that the collection was purchased.

Mr. CASEY. Can the hon. gentleman say whether it is all botanical, or whether a part of it is Indian curiosities?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is purely a botanical collection. It is not an exactly parallel case to the one I have referred, and the price is four or five times as much as I have heard spoken of as the proper price of such collections. It is an immensely high price for Mr. Hirschfelder's collection. Professor Macoun has been offering his very cheaply indeed.

Mr. CHARLTON. I do not suppose the hon. First Minister can be supposed to be able to answer every question of detail, but there are one or two points on which I would like to get information. I see a sum of \$3,795 was paid to G. M. Dawson; could the hon. Minister tell me where his field of exploration was last year? In what part of the Dominion was he engaged?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mr. Dawson was along the Rocky Mountains. As the hon. gentleman knows, he is a most distinguished naturalist and geologist.

Mr. CHARLTON. I observe that Mr. Robert Bell, another distinguished officer, was paid \$2,728. Where was he located?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The report is not out, but from my general recollection he has been employed in the Hudson's Bay region. He has given us most valuable reports as to the climatic conditions there, and his report as to the climate and the capability of navigating Hudson's Straits in autumn and winter goes to show, if it is verified—no doubt what he has stated is quite correct as to what he saw, but it might have been an exceptional season—that we have another means of entrance and exit into our North-West.

Mr. DAWSON. I think it is very desirable that we should have a survey of Hudson's Bay. I am glad to hear that my namesakes the Dawsons', although I have not the pleasure of their acquaintance, have so highly distinguished themselves in the North-West.