

Mr. WOODWORTH. I think that the stationery supply to the Senate and House of Commons is quite sufficient without giving us these trunks. I do not know what is done in other countries, but the unlimited supply of stationery given hon. members during the Session does away with the necessity of giving them a trunk full to bring home and distribute in their neighborhood.

Mr. SOMERVILLE (Brant). I am glad to see I have succeeded in making one convert.

Mr. CHARLTON. The hon. gentleman says he does not know what is done in other countries. If he did, he would make very little objection on the score of economy. In the United States, each representative gets a writing desk, a dozen gold pens, two dozen knives, about \$100 worth of paper and several other perquisites.

Amendment negatived, and Senate amendments concurred in.

SUPPLY—ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. McLELAN moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. MILLS. I regret I have not had an opportunity of submitting to the House the motion I proposed to submit at an earlier period, so that there would be ample opportunity to discuss the important question relating to the administration of affairs in the North-West. I cannot hope, at this hour of the evening or this period of the Session, even to give the most scanty outline of the views I entertain of the policy which hon. gentlemen opposite have pursued for some years in the administration of affairs in the North-West. I shall content myself with giving a brief review of a few of the more important features connected with the administration of the Government. These matters are, no doubt, of very great importance, and I propose to ask the House to pronounce a judgment on the motion it put in your hands. I do not expect the judgment will be such as the facts warrant, but notwithstanding that, it is important, with the view of fairly placing before the country the issues that exist between hon. gentlemen on this side and on that, that I should take this course. In my opinion there have been many cases of exhibitions of incapacity, negligence and mismanagement in the conduct of affairs in the North-West Territories, and I think it is important these should be brought fairly before the country at the earliest opportunity, so that the country may be enabled to judge of the incompetency of the present Administration. We know that it is admitted by hon. gentlemen opposite that the North-West Territories are fertile, that the country is well watered, that the climate, although rigorous in the winter season, is, on the whole, healthful, but nevertheless there has not been made, in return for the enormous expenditure in that country during the past eight years, that progress in its settlement which so large an expenditure of public money ought to have brought about. The hon. gentleman who leads the Government told us, in 1880, that if it had not been for the change that took place in 1873 by the formation of the Administration of the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie), the North-West country would have been in a very different condition from that in which it then was. I am not going to discuss the merits or the demerits of the policy of the Mackenzie Government. I have not the time, nor is it necessary to do so; but I propose to point out the inadequate results which have followed the administration of this Government. Mr. Wells, the American statistician, has stated that the whole wealth of the United States is not more than the industry of the population produces in four years. The same statement might be made with regard to this country, but the results have not borne out that calculation. The First Minister, in

1880, gave us his views as to what was likely to be accomplished by 1890, through the course he had marked out. The leader of the Opposition said on that occasion that this country had not made the same progress in population as the neighboring Republic, and the First Minister replied that the reason was, we had not adopted a protective tariff and a railway policy, and that by the adoption of both the same satisfactory results which had been obtained in the United States, would be exhibited in this country. He said that instead of this country showing a progress during ten years of 13 per cent. of population, it would show, as did the United States, a progress of 22 per cent. He also told us that at that time, in 1879, there were going into the North-West Territory about 20,000 people, and that the report of the Minister of Agriculture, who estimated the number at 12,000, was inaccurate, that the number estimated was ridiculously small, because the Minister of Agriculture had not taken into consideration the large number which had crossed into the country from various points in other ways than by rail. He told us the population of the North-West Territory was greater than the Minister of Agriculture had shown it to be, and he expressed the confident expectation that there were 25,000 people going in that year, but he would put the figure at the ridiculously small amount of 25,000. He further stated that the number of people going into the North-West Territories would show a yearly average of about 5,000 for the years following. According, therefore, to the statement made by the hon. gentleman at that time, the population in the North-West Territories should, by 1890, amount to 75,000 at least. The hon. gentleman also said there was no danger of the lands of the North-West Territories passing into the hands of speculators, because the power of establishing municipal institutions and imposing taxes would have the effect of transferring the property that might be held by speculators into the hands of *bond fide* owners at an early day, and the Government therefore did not think it necessary to take any precautions to prevent a large portion of the territory passing into the hands of private owners for purposes purely speculative. The hon. gentleman also told the House of the results he expected to derive from the policy he was then pursuing. He said that by the year 1890 the amount of cash to be realised by the sale of railway lands would be \$16,272,000; by pre-emptions, \$16,440,000; and by other sales, \$38,533,000; so that, by 1890, the country would derive cash from the sales of land \$71,305,000. The hon. gentleman assumed that the cost of surveys would be \$2,000,000 and the cost of management of the lands \$400,000 more during that period. So that the country would have a net sum in cash, to apply in diminution of the obligations that were about to be incurred in the course the Government were pursuing, of \$69,000,000, so that by the year 1890 the \$75,000,000 which the hon. gentleman estimated the Canadian Pacific Railway would cost would be reduced to the sum of \$6,000,000. Then the hon. gentleman, according to the statement he made, showed a hope that by this year the population that would go in from without to that country would number 308,000, and that during the next four years 295,000 would be added to that number, so that by 1890 the hon. gentleman counted upon an addition to the existing population and the natural increase of that existing population of 600,000. In fact, the pictures which the hon. gentleman drew of the future of the North-West Territory were something like those found in the advertisements along the Missouri River in the story of Mark Tapley and Martin Chuzzlewit. What is the actual cost of surveys up to this moment? According to the reports the hon. gentleman has from time to time brought down, they amount to \$4,000,000, and the net income from the sale of public lands is something like \$500,000. Let us look at the cost that has been incurred in