

these when they are required, and so it will always be necessary to keep a considerable number, perhaps not so many as are kept at the present time, on hand in the department. While perhaps the department has carried the principle of economy to the extreme, it is nevertheless desirable not to distribute them, so as to retain none in your possession for future distribution, if it is found necessary.

Mr. DEWDNEY. I must reply to the question put by the hon. member in reference to a matter in which I know the Province of Nova Scotia takes a great interest, that is in regard to the scale which has lately been adopted for the maps we make of that country. Some years ago, as the hon. gentleman probably knows, arrangements were made with the Nova Scotia Government by which we agreed to publish maps of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton at a scale of one mile to the inch, provided some assistance was given by Nova Scotia. The same arrangement was made with British Columbia, both being important mining countries. British Columbia paid \$5,000, and Nova Scotia paid \$1,500. I suppose as soon as the money stopped that came from Nova Scotia, the scale was reduced in order not to overdraw the expenditure on the Geological vote. The matter was referred to me by several scientific gentlemen in Nova Scotia who pressed it very strongly. I also received letters from the hon. member for Guysborough, and indeed from nearly every member from Nova Scotia, and I made it my business to make a very careful enquiry into the cause of the change of scale, and I was told by the director that it was entirely owing to financial reasons. He found that the finances would not allow him to continue drawing plans on this large scale. As every one knows, the difference between a scale of one mile to the inch and four miles to the inch means sixteen times the quantity of paper, and besides very much extra work in regard to drawing and engraving. I, therefore, made enquiries whether it would be possible to do our work by the photo-lithographic system rather than by engraving, and in order to see if that could be done I set our best draughtsman at work to prepare one of the sheets of Nova Scotia for that purpose. It was found that although a very fair impression could be made by that process, it was not anything like as satisfactory as was the engraving. I then calculated the time it would take for a re-drawing of all these maps that would have to be done in this way, and I found it would cost very little more to have the maps engraved. Consequently, I came to the conclusion that our vote would be able to stand it. I also took into consideration that the last portion of Nova Scotia had been drawn on that scale, and the country being essentially a mining country, I appreciated the difficulty that mining men and the scientific men in Nova Scotia had in studying out the features of that country, and I gave instructions to have the scale increased as far as Nova Scotia was concerned. I hope that I shall not have the same demand from all the other provinces, and I think there is no necessity for it, because it depends so much upon the nature of the country and how the rocks lie, as to what the scale shall be. In a country where the rocks lie horizontally it is not so important, but where they stand almost perpendi-

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).

cularly, as they do generally in mining countries, or at an angle, it is very difficult to show the features of the country on a small scale.

Committee reported resolutions.

ADJOURNMENT—LAND OFFICE AT EDMONTON.

Mr. FOSTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. LAURIER. Before the House adjourns I would like to know the intention of the Minister of the Interior with regard to the land office at Edmonton. I received a telegram from Edmonton the other day, and called the attention of the Government to the fact that there was great dissatisfaction in Edmonton because the people believed that the Government were going to remove the land office to the other side of the river. I have to-day received this telegram from Edmonton:

"Napoléon Gagné and others applied for homestead entry on Stoney Plain, north side, at Edmonton land office this morning. Officer in charge unable to take entry as books on south side. Consider this breach of faith. Want to know if Government intend to keep faith or not. Excitement rising."

Mr. DEWDNEY. When the matter was brought up in the House I was not present, and the leader of the House answered the hon. gentleman. He stated then that there had been some trouble on account of the impression among the people that the land office was going to be removed from the north side of the river to the south side. It appears there was some misunderstanding with regard to that, because the agent on the north side had instruction to move the office on the south side to give the immigrants who were coming in from the south an opportunity to make arrangements there without having to make a long trip across the river and back again. That created some difficulty. At that time I was continually receiving telegrams, one of which was to this effect: That there were some nine parties waiting to make entry at the office north of the river, which had been closed, and that there were several hundred waiting to take out hay permits. This was at a time when there was a little block in transferring the books from one side of the river to the other. When I found there was a misunderstanding, I telegraphed to the agent to this effect: If there has been any misunderstanding with regard to my instructions, you must consider this telegram your instruction. Keep the office open on the north side of the river, but take such documents as are necessary to give entries to the immigrants who are coming in on the south side. A few hours after that I received a telegram saying it was satisfactory, and that the office was open on the north side. I received a telegram from the agent stating that it appeared in the papers there were a number of people waiting to make entries on the north side, and that a large number of farmers were also waiting to take out hay permits, that the office had been open for two days, and that although there had been a little block, there was no longer any trouble. That is the position on the north side.

Mr. LAURIER. I received a telegram on Friday.