

a statement made by a man who has been resident in that country, and who came down through by the Edmonton route, and who warns his friends not to undertake to travel that way, as the hardships are so serious. I mention that simply as an incident; I do not, myself, take any particular stock in it except this, that we all know that the distances are very much greater than by the sea and river routes, that the time usually occupied by the Hudson Bay people who pass over that route is at least six or seven months. That is a matter of history, and it would be idle to expect the North-west government to undertake the control of that territory at this time. The expenses are very much larger in the Yukon district than elsewhere. The hon. gentleman must know that they are far beyond anything in the organized districts. It was never contemplated that the North-west government were to exercise any jurisdiction, and as a matter of fact they never thought of exercising any jurisdiction in the Yukon district. It is only recently the question has arisen to any prominence by reason of their making inquiry as to permits. I believe at present permits are not being issued. Permits were issued last year and the year before to the two large commercial companies that were doing business there.

Hon. Sir. MACKENZIE BOWELL—  
By whom?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—By the federal government. They were issued, I think, to the Alaska Commercial Company and the Alaska Trading Company. They had permits for considerable quantities, but beyond that I am not aware that any permits have been issued, except one or two last year.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That is in the Yukon district?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, confined of course to the Yukon district.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—By what department?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I really cannot inform my hon. friend. I presume they were issued under an Order in Council by the proper authority.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—Did I understand my hon. friend to say the other day that

Mr. Chambers of Oak Lake had received a large permit.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not think that I said that.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—I understood the hon. gentleman to say so.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Will the hon. gentleman explain why this government issue permits, and why they request the North-west authorities not to issue any?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Because it is believed that the authority should be here. The territory does not in any sense belong to the North-west Territories, and could not be administered from the North-west Territories.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Territorial officials have already gone up there to exercise their offices in that particular regard. May I ask if the government was made aware that a member of the executive and also the license inspector of the territorial government have gone into the Yukon district for the purpose of administering the duties of the executive in that country.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Speaking for myself, I am not aware of it.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Neither am I.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I understood the Minister of Justice and also the Secretary of State to say that, technically, the Yukon district is within the jurisdiction of the executive of the North-west Territories. It is not only technically within their jurisdiction, but is a portion of the North-west Territories territorially, and they must come within the purview of that executive, and consequently under their control and management. If that be the case, will the hon. gentleman tell us what the peculiar function of Mr. Walsh, who has been sent into that country, as the newspapers have announced, to administer law and justice—in fact, if the newspapers are to be credited, having absolute authority and power in that country? Perhaps it is just as well that the country should be informed on that point. The hon. member from Calgary (Mr. Lougheed) has told us that already there are two north-west officials there; now you have sent another official into that country for some purpose or other.