

of vast importance. There is probably no part of Canada that possesses such wealth in minerals. Some provision should be made in this Bill by which the geologists should be distributed over the various sections of this Dominion, and not left, as it is now, entirely in the hands of the department to do as they think proper. My hon. friend might take this into consideration when he moves the third reading of the Bill.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—It is better to leave this to the department. They are much better judges than this House can be of where the services of the geologists are most required. They have all the records of the department, and we might very properly leave the matter to them.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—I believe it is a matter of internal administration of the department.

HON. MR. POWER—I wish to call attention to the fact that the chapter which we are repealing contained this provision, which is not embodied in the Bill. I do not mean to say that it is necessary, but I do not see that there is any provision made in this direction in the Bill. The Act says that the museum shall be kept open to the public every day of the week except Sundays, for a certain number of hours. Now there is no such provision in this Bill. I presume the Government will see that the museum shall still be kept open to the public.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—It is one of the regulations that can be adopted by the department itself.

HON. MR. SCOTT—In the memo. left on our desks I see a recommendation was made that the annual report should be distributed liberally, more particularly among the educational establishments of the country, and also that copies should be furnished to the newspapers. Perhaps the Minister, before the third reading, will be in a position to advise the House as to whether it is proposed to increase the distribution or confine it as it is now. I think it is desirable that this annual report should be circulated in quarters where it does not now go.

HON. MR. POWER—The suggestion of the hon. gentleman from Ottawa opens up

a question of very considerable importance. The reports on the geological survey are very expensive. There are a great many tables in them and illustrations, and they are very expensive publications. Last Session I called the attention of the House to the fact that, in countries which are much richer than Canada, there is no such lavish gratuitous distribution of public documents as there is here. In England the rule is that public documents are sold for cost and charges, and they are on sale in places where the public can get them. Any one who needs a report of any kind can get it at a very low figure; and I think it would be very much better that we, in Canada, should adopt that system to a very much greater extent than we have. In that case, any one who needed a copy of the report would go and buy it. We spend an immense sum of money in distributing reports all over the country, most of which are not read at all.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—This department would involve a large expense, no doubt, but after that expenditure has been incurred the distribution of a few additional copies of the annual report will add very little to the expense. There is nothing I have been asked for more than for copies of this Geological Survey report. Many persons with whom I am acquainted are anxious to get it, and I cannot procure it for them. It is not on sale, and it cannot be had from the department. After going to all the expense of having these surveys made and reports printed, we should not hesitate at the trifling expense of printing a larger edition of the report for more general distribution.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—By the seventh clause of the Bill the distribution is left to the Governor in Council. I see the opinions of members of this House are not the same on the subject. The Government will consider the matter and make a wise distribution.

HON. MR. READ, from the committee, reported the Bill with amendments, which were concurred in.

IMPROPER USE OF FIREARMS BILL.

THIRD READING.

HON. MR. READ moved the adoption of the amendments made in Committee of