

introduce and pass an Act relating to the mining of gold and other minerals, excepting coal, in the North-West Territories?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. In reply to the hon. gentleman, I would say that section 42 of the Dominion Lands Act, 1883, provides that lands containing coal or other minerals shall be disposed of in such manner, and on such terms and conditions, as may from time to time be fixed by the Governor in Council by regulations to be made in that behalf. The regulations relating to the mining of gold and other minerals, except coal, have been prepared, and are awaiting the consideration of the Governor in Council. They will be laid on the Table early next week. The regulations respecting the mining of coal have already been laid on the Table.

MINING ON BAKER CREEK, N. W. T.

Mr. LISTER enquired, Has any person been authorized by the Government to grant mining licenses in the North-West Territories? If so, name, date of appointment and salary. If no such appointment has been made, has a grant of land been made by the Government to the Healy or Dennis Company, on Baker Creek, or on the south side of the Bow River, south of Silver City? If so, when was the grant made, what quantity of land is covered by it, and what was the consideration? If no such grant made, has the said company or any other company, or any person or persons, received a license or been in any way authorized to mine for minerals in the North-West? If so, the date of each license and the quantity of land covered?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Department of the Interior is aware that Messrs. Dennis and Healy have made a discovery on what is known as Baker Creek. We have now an application from them in the Department for a mining location. No grant can be made to them, or anyone else, until the mining regulations are in force; then their case will be dealt with under the regulations. No person has been authorized to grant mining licenses in the North-West.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION.

Mr. BLAKE enquired, What is the estimate of the Government as to the number of immigrants who have settled in Canada during the last year; of the number of immigrants who have settled in Manitoba and the North-West; and of the number of immigrants from other parts of Canada who have settled in Manitoba and the North-West?

Mr. POPE. The number of immigrants who came into Canada during last year and expressed their intention of settling here, was, according to the returns of our agents and others, 133,303. There were also reported on the line between Emerson and the Rocky Mountains, 1,000 people. In my opinion this number is underestimated, and such is the opinion of our agents. As to the number of immigrants who have settled in Manitoba and the North-West, that is placed at 50,400. I am not in a position to answer the last clause of the hon. gentleman's question, but I will hand him an answer.

BANK RETURNS.

Mr. MASSUE enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce, during the present Session, a measure to provide that the returns made by banks shall be examined and controlled by inspectors?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. In answer to the hon. gentleman's enquiry, I may say that the subject to which he has called attention is now engaging the consideration of the Government.

SUPPLY FARM No. 20.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron) moved for a return showing all Orders in Council or Departmental Orders respecting the Mr. LISTER.

sale of Supply Farm No. 20 on Fish Creek, near Calgary, or authorizing the sale of said farm. Also, a return showing: 1. The number of acres under cultivation in said farm at the time of sale. 2. The buildings thereon and the cost thereof. 3. All applications for the purchase of said farm. 4. A copy of the conveyance or agreement entered into between the Government and the purchaser. 5. The price agreed to be paid for said farm, and how paid or payable. 6. And all correspondence between the Government, or the Department of the Interior, and any person, respecting said farm and the sale thereof. He said: On Monday last I drew the attention of the Government to this farm by making the following enquiry of the Ministry:

"Whether Supply Farm No. 20, on Fish Creek, near Calgary, has been sold; when, to whom, and for what price, and whether by private sale or public competition?"

In reply to that question the hon. First Minister answered:

"Supply Farm No. 20 has been sold to the Hon. Dr. Robitaille at a price of \$3 per acre, by private sale, and not by public competition."

I must say I was somewhat surprised to hear from the hon. First Minister that this valuable property had been disposed of by the Government by private sale, and at \$3 per acre. The farm, as I understand, is a large and valuable farm, consisting of, I think, some 5,000 acres, established some years ago by the Government as a supply farm; the object being to raise upon it grain to supply the instruction farms and the Indians. The farm has been in operation, and, so far as I can understand, in successful operation, for some years. A large number of men have been employed upon it, and a considerable amount has been expended in improving, cultivating, and building upon it. It is situated within a few miles of Calgary, in what is said to be one of the very best portions of the North-West Territory; the land is said to be first class land. Now, the exact amount expended upon the farm it is difficult to ascertain from the public documents. It is stated in one report that in 1880 there were 465 acres under cultivation, most of which was fenced; that there were buildings of some value on the premises; that other improvements had been made thereon, but to what extent it is a very difficult matter to gather from the reports submitted to the House by the Minister in charge of Indian Affairs. So far as I have been able to ascertain, I should say that we have expended at least over \$10,000 on that farm which has been sold for \$3 per acre by private sale to the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec. Now, as I said, Sir, the farm was established for a particular purpose, and, so far as one can gather from the reports, it has been a successful farm, adapted to the purposes for which it was intended. Judging also by the documents to which we have access, there was no reason whatever why the farm should have been sold, and certainly no reason that I can see why it should have been sold by private sale to Dr. Robitaille, the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec. The first report I could lay my hands upon was a communication from Norman T. McLeod, one of the Indian Agents in the North-West, to the Lieutenant Governor. In that report Mr. McLeod speaks of this farm, and of various other farms; points out the difficulty of operating them; and, of course, one would easily understand how, at that time, in 1880, there was considerable difficulty in operating them, isolated as they were and difficult of access. In Sessional Paper No. 14, of the year 1881, I find that Mr. McLeod, among other things, makes the following statement:—

"I regret having to report the almost total failure which has attended the operations on the two supply farms, at Fish Creek and at Pincher Creek, greatly owing to unavoidable causes. The spring was cold and late, and vegetation slow. The land was not in a state to expect a full crop from it, the greater part of it having only been broken for the first time in the spring, which caused the seeding to be backward. The seed intended for them was not delivered in time, and on the 23rd of August a heavy snow storm, followed by severe frost, cut off the late