

Clause 3. The authority of the Governor in Council for the issue of such licenses shall forthwith in each year be communicated to the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, if Parliament is then in session, but if not then in session, within ten days of the commencement of next session.

Committee rose and reported progress.

## SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 58) to authorize the conveyance to the Corporation of the city of Toronto of certain Ordinance lands in that city.—(Mr. Dewdney.)

## FISHERIES.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I would ask the Minister if, in regard to the subject we were discussing a moment or two ago, the House may hope to be placed in possession of the despatches to which I have referred on previous occasions, the despatch of Lord Knutsford of the 11th February, and the proposal made by this Government to the Government of Newfoundland?

Mr. TUPPER. I am now, as I was then, in daily expectancy of the requisite authority to lay these papers on the Table of the House, and I will do that as soon as I receive the authority.

Mr. LAURIER. Are you not tired expecting?

Mr. TUPPER. Sometimes I do get tired.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Then there will be no reason for our waiting in expectation of these?

Mr. TUPPER. On Monday I will be able to speak more definitely on the subject.

## THE BYE-ELECTIONS.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). When may we expect the return for which I asked, giving the reason for the delay in the issue of the writs in the bye-elections?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I called the attention of the Secretary of State to that about a week ago.

## SUPPLY.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Immigration—Agents in Canada.....\$40,125

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Before we discuss the items of this vote, we ought in all conscience to have a statement from the head of the department in reference to the policy of the Government in respect to immigration. As I have very frequently had occasion to call the attention of the House to this subject, the hon. gentleman must know that his department stands convicted by the late census of having most grievously misled—I will not say deceived—the people of this country by the statements which have been laid before the House during all these years. According to the reports of the department, about 900,000 immigrants were brought to Canada during the last ten years. If there be one particle of foundation for these statements, if the slightest dependence is to be placed on the statements which have been made by the hon. gentleman and his predecessors in this regard, then, as I have repeatedly pointed out, the result has been

Mr. TUPPER.

that in the last ten years we have lost a million and a-half of people out of Canada; but if, as I suspect, the census returns will show that the whole of the returns made to us by the Department of Immigration have been based on a huge mistake, to use the mildest term, have been based on a most deplorable error, we should have the explanation of the head of the department as to the immigrants who have been settling in Canada. We have also a right to know what policy the Government are going to adopt in the future in regard to immigration. On all that, we should have a very full statement from the Minister and from the Government generally before they demand from us any sum or sums of money for the purpose of immigration, and I hope the Minister will be prepared to make that statement. I find nothing in his report shedding any light on the subject. I find there a series of meagre references to what has occurred, but no explanation and no reason is given to us as to why the department should have been so egregiously mistaken as to the returns they have made of the immigrants settled in Canada during the last ten years as the census returns show them to have been.

Mr. CARLING. The returns which have been made to this House as to the number of immigrants settled in Canada were correct and accurate and made by officers of the department. Every year when these returns have been brought down, they have been certified by the officers stationed at the ports of entry, and the same system which has been adopted by the present Government was followed by the Government of which the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) was a member. We have no reason to doubt that the information we have obtained from our officers and from the collectors of customs in the different ports in the Dominion, is accurate as a record of immigration, but not including emigration. With regard to the number of people who may have left the country, of course we have no record. A record of those who may have left the country has not been kept, and I think it has been admitted by the officials of the United States that any attempt to keep a record of the number of people who pass to and fro between the two countries has been a failure. That has been admitted by one of the leading members of the Government in the United States. With regard to the immigration policy of the Government, it is, so far as I am aware, to continue the same policy which has been in existence for the last few years. The Government are offering every inducement they possibly can to intending immigrants to this country. We have advertised the advantages of Canada on the continent of Europe and also in Great Britain, and there has been no time since I have had the honour of being at the head of this department when we have had a better prospect of immigration and of obtaining a good class of immigrants, than we have this year. Last year we endeavoured to let those of our people who had gone to the western States know that we had advantages to offer in Canada that were better than those they had in the western States, and I am glad to say that last season we had between 2,000 and 3,000 settlers who came in from South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and other parts of the western States and the chances are that this year we will have a very