

dilemma to take, I do not know. Taking either one, we are forced to a conclusion to which no one is disposed to arrive.

Mr. MILLS. The Minister in charge has informed the Committee that the last volume is in the printer's hands. We received that information some weeks ago. I understand that all the Census staff is still retained in the Department; what are they engaged in doing? I noticed a statement in the *Mail*, by Mr. Kingsmill, in which he says the work of the Census branch was completed six months ago. The House is entitled to some explanation in regard to this particular matter. It is well that we should look into the manner in which this work has been performed. The volumes are wholly unreliable. Taking sea-going vessels, I find the following statement:—

SEA-GOING VESSELS.		
	1871.	1881.
Verchères.....	10	1
Vaudreuil.....	5	0
Portneuf.....	62	39
Berthier.....	25	6
Lincoln.....	38	8
Welland.....	3	0
BARGES.		
Quebec.....	134	63
Portneuf.....	12	0
Lincoln.....	7	0
Welland.....	20	0
STEAMERS.		
Welland.....	18	0
Lincoln.....	9	0
Huron.....	9	1

When we look at public improvements in agricultural districts, we find the same discrepancies exist. The number of houses and buildings in some of the counties was less than in 1871. In Waterloo, South, there were 3,308 barns reported in 1871; there were 3,194 in 1881. In Wellington there were 5,132 in 1871, and 4,731 in 1881. And so we might go over the list, showing that, instead of the number of buildings increasing with the increase of population, the number diminished as the population increased. The same discrepancies are observable in every department of these statistics.

Mr. WELDON. What has been done in regard to the city or county of St. John, respecting which it was admitted that a mistake had been made.

Mr. BLAKE. We have been told by the Minister and by the acting Minister that the final volume is expected to be distributed before the close of the present Session—that is 14th April. Why then do we require to vote the large sum asked for.

Mr. McLELAN. After the three volumes were issued, in 1875, another was published, compiled from the three. It is intended to pursue the same course with respect to this Census, and I am informed that a considerable number of the staff have been retained for that work, while others are employed in different services.

Mr. BLAKE. How many are still employed?

Mr. McLELAN. I have not the number.

Mr. MILLS. How many have been dismissed?

Mr. McLELAN. Quite a number of them have been dismissed and some of them have been employed in other services. There were also quite a number kept for the purpose of compiling the other volume.

Mr. BLAKE. In regard to the return made for the city and county of St. John, we were told that we must not rely on the statements—that they are wrong and would be corrected. I presume further enquiry has been made and that

Mr. PATERSON (Brant).

the acting Minister will be able to say what the errors are. Did he find that they arose from culpable negligence on the part of the local officers? I am afraid the returns are equally defective in a number of other cases.

Mr. McLELAN. I did not know that it was admitted.

Mr. WELDON. Yes; it was admitted, and a statement appeared in one of the volumes.

Mr. McLELAN. I am informed that the correction desired by the hon. gentleman will appear in the special volume.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. With respect to the enumeration, I desire to ask, has the Minister the means of giving us any information as to the number of persons in the several Provinces who were put down as not being at that moment residents?

Mr. McLELAN. No.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Then, I say this Census is not worth the paper on which it is written. We have a number of people who are residents in other countries and who may or may not return to us, and I think some sort of record should have been kept whereby they could be checked.

Mr. McLELAN. It was only those who were temporarily absent.

Mr. DAVIES. I know, with regard to Prince Edward Island, that the person who took the Census informed me that his instructions were to ask the head of the house whether any of his family were absent, and whether he believed they would return again at any time, and if he believed they would return, he was to put them down as residents.

Mr. BLAKE. I may say that only a few weeks ago I was speaking to a man who is prominent in Manitoba politics, and he said that the Census of that Province was not to be relied upon, because a number of Ontario people who had gone to that Province were counted as being residents of Ontario, and therefore the population of Manitoba was less than it should have been.

Mr. MILLS. I know, with regard to one item, that is the manufacture of staves, there is one establishment in Wallaceburg which turns out more than are here given to the county of Kent, and I believe there are several more in that county which turn out more work than is credited to the whole Province.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am afraid it is as clear as daylight that this Census has been compiled with such horrible inaccuracy that none of us can venture to make any calculations which are based upon its figures. Now if there is one thing more than another which should be carefully and accurately taken, it is this Census—this decennial stock-taking of the nation. Here we have been asked for \$400,000, in different estimates, to get an authoritative statement of the population and other statistics of the Canadian people, and yet, after such gross mistakes as hon. gentlemen have pointed out, it is shown that this money has been wasted, and worse than wasted, and information of the most valuable character that we could have had, information which would have been of the greatest use to us in the future, has been left out of these volumes. For example, in the Census which is taken in England and Ireland, the classes of the houses are given—houses which are of one, two, or three, or more than three rooms are classified. I remember calling the attention of the Department to the desirability of having this information, but no attention was paid to the suggestion, though all sorts of insignificant information is given—or attempted to be given, for I fear it is not accurately—and this enormous sum of money has been