

officer at Montreal; but why not, as was suggested last year, remove that Department from Montreal? He would also like some information as to a charge made in connection with organic remains.

MR. MILLS said he must refer the hon. gentleman to page 37 of his report for information as to the work performed by Mr. Whiteheaves, who was preparing a work on the palæontology of the country, illustrative of the organic remains to be found in the various geological strata of Canada, particularly of British Columbia.

MR. MITCHELL said he noticed that a charge of \$3,942 was made for sending down specimens to the Philadelphia Exhibition, and he considered that the sum set down was enormous.

MR. MILLS said he believed the entire cost amounted to nearly \$10,000.

MR. BUNSTER said that notwithstanding the amount of money devoted to geological surveys, British Columbia was in this respect totally neglected. He felt sure that if the Dominion Government would pay more attention to the Province, the influx of population would more than compensate for the outlay. Some gold fields had lately been discovered in British Columbia, and the necessity for geological surveys became more urgent.

MR. MILLS said the expenditure for these surveys was larger in British Columbia than in any other Province.

MR. DOMVILLE said New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were comparatively neglected. There were some very valuable seams of coal to be found in these Provinces, and instructions should be given to the geologists in the service of the Government to make exploratory excursions there.

MR. MACKAY (Cape Breton) said that when the geological formation of a country was settled, it became the duty of private individuals, and not of the Government, to explore and develop the mineral resources.

MR. MILLS: Hear, hear.

MR. TUPPER said that, but for the "hear, hear" of the hon. Minister of the Interior in reference to the statement of the hon. member for Cape Breton,

MR. MITCHELL.

he should not have spoken. He joined issue with the hon. member for Cape Breton. He believed Parliament did not spend this money for the purpose of elucidating certain theories with reference to the geological formation, but for the purpose of enriching the country by carrying these explorations to a practical issue, and showing the mineral wealth of the country. Take, for instance, the anthracite coal in New Brunswick; who was more interested than the Government in bringing scientific information to bear upon it, so as to secure as far as possible the valuable results which would flow from the working of those mines, which would not only be of benefit to the locality, but would increase the trade and revenue of the country? Look, too, at the mineral region of Spring Hill; those mines had resulted, not only to the advantage of the parties who had speculated in connection with these mines, but of enormous practical benefit to the Government and to the country. At this moment the Intercolonial Railway was being worked at a great saving per annum, in consequence of these mines. In the same way, wherever the Government had it in their power, by sending Mr. Selwyn and the staff under him, to assist in the development and exploration of those sections of the country where valuable minerals were supposed to lie, this would not only pay the money expended, but would benefit the country a hundred-fold.

MR. BLANCHET said that if the exploration of the country was left in the hands of private individuals, very little progress would be made, and very little information be obtained of the natural resources of Canada. He was strongly in favour of the museum and matters relating to geology being removed to Ottawa. He saw that nearly \$2,000 was spent in Montreal for rent and taxes, and \$563 for fuel every year, and the interest on that sum, capitalized, would be nearly sufficient to erect a building and all the necessary accessories.

MR. MACKAY (Cape Breton) said he would repeat that it was not the duty of the Government to do anything