

the 1st March, but there are now three cars, being combined dining and restaurant cars in operation, and have been in operation since the 1st March. The cost of fitting up these cars was \$7,321.97; the cost of equipping them was \$2,528.06; the cost of operating them from the 1st to the 22nd instant, \$913; gross earnings during same period, \$655.55.

#### LIQUOR PERMITS IN THE YUKON.

Mr. FOSTER asked,

Has a permit or permits to take whisky in the Yukon district been granted to one Chambers, or to Chambers & Chisholm, of Oak Lake, Manitoba, by either the Government of the Dominion or the North-west Territories? If so, for what amount was the permit granted?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). A permit to take 1,000 gallons of whisky into the Yukon district was issued, by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories, to William Chambers, of Oak Lake, Manitoba. No permit has been issued to Chambers & Chisholm, of Oak Lake, Manitoba. I may add that this information now appears for the fourth time on the "Hansard" this session, and I hope hon. gentlemen opposite will be able to assimilate it so as to avoid the necessity of asking the question again.

Mr. WALLACE. Myself and a number of members about me, although listening attentively, could not hear the statement made by the Minister of the Interior. I think the members of this House are entitled to have a statement made in such a manner that they can hear it. I would therefore ask that the Minister of the Interior read the statement again.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I will not throw any doubt upon the remark which the hon. gentleman has made. I am of course bound to accept his statement that he did not hear what I said. But if he did not hear it, if he will look back at "Hansard" a few days ago, he will get the information twice repeated on the same day. It now appears on the "Hansard" for the fourth time during this session. I am not aware that I am under any obligation to repeat from day to day information which has already been conveyed to the House.

#### INFANTRY COMPANY, MORRIS, MANITOBA.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked,

Will the request of Capt. Geo. P. Bliss, to be authorized to form an infantry company in the town of Morris, province of Manitoba, be granted?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Bordon). I beg to reply to the hon. gentleman that the matter is under consideration. But I may add for his in-

formation, that the granting of the request of Capt. Bliss would involve an increase in the establishment of the militia, an increase to the numerical strength of the militia, and therefore would involve an increase of the annual vote.

#### STATISTICAL BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr. HEYD asked,

1. What is the number of persons at present employed in the Statistical Branch of the Department of Agriculture?

2. Upon what work have they been engaged during the past six months?

3. What was the total cost of the branch, including salaries, for the past fiscal year?

4. Is Mr. George Johnson still the Dominion statistician, so-called, and the chief of this branch?

5. What is Mr. Johnson's salary?

6. About what date will it be necessary to begin to prepare for the taking of the forthcoming decennial census?

7. If Mr. Johnson is still the chief of this branch, will it be his duty to take charge of the next census?

8. Is Mr. George Johnson the same person who was frequently denounced in Parliament and in the Liberal press for active and offensive partisanship?

9. Is it the intention to reorganize the Statistical Branch of the Department of Agriculture?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). 1. Eight. 2. The work includes the Statistical Year Book, Criminal Statistics and General Statistics. 3. For the fiscal year 1896-97, \$22,844.89, made up as follows:—

General statistics.....	\$4,237 55
Manitoba census.....	1,873 35
Criminal statistics .....	1,509 67
Statistical Year Book.....	7,573 82
Salaries of permanent staff.....	7,650 50

\$22,844 89

4. Mr. George Johnson, who was appointed statistician of the Department of Agriculture in 1889, still holds that position and is chief of the Statistical Branch. 5. \$2,400 per annum. 6. A small amount will have to be placed in the Estimates to be submitted in 1899 for preliminary work. 7. As to who will take charge of the next census, that will be determined by the department when the work comes up. 8. While I cannot state definitely, my impression is that it is the same. 9. The question has not yet been considered.

#### TELEGRAPH LINE, COUNTY OF CHICOUTIMI.

Mr. MARCOTTE asked,

1. How much has the building of the Government telegraph line cost between St. Alexis and Anse St. Jean, county of Chicoutimi?

2. Who had the contract for furnishing the posts, and what is the amount of the contract?