

Territories Act in the Lieutenant Governor of the North-west Territories, who I presume has a perfect right to exercise those functions entirely irrespective of this government, that this government should interfere in the exercise of that discretion and thus prevent the executive of the North-west Territories from participating in all the advantages of those powers which have already been given them of deriving a certain revenue from licenses and permits which may be issued for the consumption of liquor in the territories. One also cannot fail to observe that the country at the present time does labour under the impression that the Minister of the Interior in addition to the Lieutenant Governor of the territories and the administrator of the territories is also exercising functions in that country in regard to the issue of permits. My attention was directed the other day and I presume the attention of the hon. gentleman also to grave apprehension in the moral circles in Montreal that the Minister of the Interior was about to supply that country with permits. If the public mind is impressed with the idea that the Minister of the Interior is going to issue a large number of permits for the consumption of liquor in the Yukon territory, the government should remove any doubt upon the question. I regret that the Minister of Justice in making his explanation did not inform the House on the point, as to whether the government is issuing licenses in the manner that is generally supposed. There is another matter on which perhaps the Secretary of State will inform us and it comes peculiarly within the province of his office, that is as to whether the executive of the North-west government has been duly advised of the very radical change which is apparently to be made this session in abridging the limits of the territories and thus very substantially restricting the exercise of the powers of the territorial executive. If a very large and important section of that country is to be cut off from the territorial government and all the disadvantages incident to that particular step are to come into effect, I should like to know why the representatives of the territorial government are not here for the purpose of discussing this matter with the government or does the government intend to dragoon this matter through without saying a word to the territorial government and thus cut-off a very import-

ant section of the territories? These are all matters in which we are deeply interested and while not particularly coming within the scope of the question submitted to the House by my hon. friend from Wolseley (Hon. Mr. Perley) yet I think they deserve the very best attention of the Minister of Justice and this House. We should receive information at once on those important questions, particularly the one which is alluded to, namely the bill which is to be brought down this session for the purpose of cutting off the Yukon district from the territories. In connection with that fact I should like to point out to my hon. friend that he is entirely in error in saying that the Yukon district is not incident geographically to the present organized districts in the territories. I should like to inform my hon. friend that the Yukon district can be reached as readily and more securely through territorial routes than by way of British Columbia. I know this fact has become deeply impressed on my hon. friend's mind, and he has reasoned himself into the idea that it is impossible to reach the Yukon by North-west routes. I do not wish at this juncture to anticipate the discussion that is to take place on this point soon, but I should like to ask my hon. friend to keep his mind clear and not have his slumbers disturbed by reason of the belief that that particular country cannot be entered by the routes from territorial points. On the occasion of the debate, which will take place here at a very early day, the most satisfactory information will be given my hon. friend, which, I hope, may disabuse his mind of the impression which at present prevails, that the Yukon district cannot be reached through the territories.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I think the explanation given by the hon. Minister of Justice will be accepted by the House, that it was never contemplated that the North-west Council should have control of the Yukon district. A year ago licenses were given in that district by the government of Canada. I am quite sure those licenses were issued without protest from the government of the North-west Territories—that they considered the territory too remote for them to exercise any sovereignty. It would have taken them at any time six or eight months to reach the upper waters of the Yukon. I noticed a day or two ago in a Montreal paper