

and I think arrangements should be made by which every member could obtain copies for distribution among his friends in foreign countries and in this country. The amount received by the Government for copies sold is so insignificant that it is hardly worth considering. If any person requires the report of the Geological Survey, he ought to be able to obtain it without charge, if his request be endorsed by a member of Parliament, and the loss to the Government would be very slight. I think it would be well if the department would adopt some rule for the distribution of these reports upon a more satisfactory basis, always retaining a sufficient number in the department to meet all possible contingencies in the future. It would be also well to consider the advisability of the amalgamation of the Geological Library with the Parliamentary Library. We have in the Geological Library probably one of the most valuable collections of books on this continent, but I think it is a mistake to have that library distinct from the Parliamentary Library. If that cannot be done, a duplicate of every work in the Geological Library should be placed in the Parliamentary Library for more convenient reference.

Mr. DEWDNEY. That question has been once or twice before this House already. I brought a return down last session or the session before showing the number of reports we had in the library not distributed, and it was found that, while in some years, when I suppose the report was not so interesting as in others, a large number remained in stock, in other years they were almost completely run out, and it would be impossible to distribute full sets of the geological reports to any parties now, even to institutions which consider them of so much value. There is a regulation by which the distribution is guided. So many are allowed to each governor of a province, so many to each member and senator, and a large number are exchanges with scientific institutions all over the world. When any large public institution applies, we give sets as far as our means allow. I cannot agree with the hon. gentleman that all these volumes now in the museum should be distributed, because we would then find ourselves in the same position in regard to them as we are in regard to some years' reports which are now out of print. When individual applications have been made by members for themselves or friends, I do not think any have been refused, if we found we had a sufficient number in stock, though I am not sure whether it was within my right to authorize an issue of that kind. The reports are sold at different points throughout the Dominion, and generally the places where they can be purchased are mentioned in the reports. The hon. gentleman knows that they are really valuable books and they are sold at the lowest possible price, which I do not think any of those who interest themselves in the geology of this country hesitate to give. With regard to the amalgamation of the Museum Library with the Parliamentary Library, this is the first time the matter has been brought to my notice. The Museum Library is becoming very valuable and extensive, and we have not room now for the books we have there and are applying to the Public Works Department to increase the capacity. The bulk of the books we get are exchanges from various countries. The director has authority to

purchase books which he considers absolutely necessary for his department, and also works which he considers necessary to be kept in the library. I do not think I could recommend that an amalgamation should be made, because so many of the books in the library of the museum are needed for constant reference by the engineers, who spend nearly half a year on their work there. The building we have is altogether too small for the work we are carrying on, the samples are increasing every year and the work is increasing, and complaints are made by the director that he has not sufficient room for his work. I know that some members have visited the museum and have seen some men working in the basement and consider it unhealthy and not fit for men to work in. I hope the time is not far distant when the country will see that it is necessary to provide better accommodation for this work.

Mr. McMULLEN. I have often been to get additional copies and have been told that they could be got only on being paid for. I would suggest that those which are in stock should be distributed amongst the mechanics' institutes throughout the province. I think the Printing Committee made a recommendation on this subject this year, though I do not know whether the report has been adopted or not.

Mr. STAIRS. The Minister will remember that strong representations have been made to him by those interested in mines in Nova Scotia as to the scale adopted for maps in that province. At first it was one mile to the inch, but in the last map it was reduced to 4 miles to the inch, and practical men have found that this scale was of very little use and did not bring out the features of the country in the way in which it was intended they should be. I would ask the Minister what progress he has made towards complying with the desires of those to whom I refer?

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I agree with the Minister that the building where the branch is now situated is not convenient, not very suitable, and not very safe, and I think it was a pity it was ever purchased for that purpose. I think a building erected on Major's Hill, as close to the bank of the river as possible, would be in the right location. You require unobstructed light in an institution like that, and it should be placed in a locality where it would be as free as possible from dust. Neither of those conditions is fulfilled in its present location, and I think both would be fulfilled if it were situated in the place I suggest. I would say with regard to the library of the Geological Branch, that it is technical in its character, and professional, and it is one that requires to be at the immediate disposal of parties who are engaged there. I do not see how, unless you were to remove the whole branch up to the library here, you can remove the library away from those who require constantly to use it. Then, with regard to the publications. While it is important to supply liberally all the institutions where such works may be useful, nevertheless it is necessary not to deal with these publications improvidently, because there are always new establishments coming into existence with whom you desire to make exchanges, and who call for your publications of previous years, and if you distribute them until you have scarcely any left, you will not be able to supply