

few hundred miners crossing the boundary from Alaska. The Surveyor General, on the 5th of March, 1897, a couple of months after I took office, wrote to me a letter. I will call your attention to the fact that this letter was from an experienced, capable and reliable officer of the Government, not appointed by me, but appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I am glad to say further that the appointment was an excellent one and one which I regard as being satisfactory in every way; a better officer I do not believe any Government could have. He wrote to me on March 5th, 1897, as follows:

A perusal of Mr. Ogilvie's report leaves the impression that if prompt steps are not taken for placing the land and mining business of the district under efficient management, it will soon be in an undesirable condition. Mr. Ogilvie's view is that the surveyor of the district should have charge of the business; his arguments appear irrefutable. The present agent—

That was Capt. Constantine.

—himself admits that he cannot fulfil the duties of the office, and asks to be relieved. Should Mr. Ogilvie's view be adopted, no one is better fitted for the position than Mr. Thomas Fawcett; he is not only a skilled surveyor and a man of great tact, judgment and experience, but he is very fortunate in always maintaining pleasant relations with everybody. In a remote place like the Yukon district, where much must be left to the agent, suavity of manner and a conciliatory spirit are perhaps the most essential qualities.

Mr. Thomas Fawcett was employed in a temporary way on Government surveys from 1874 to 1892. The surveyors were nearly all employed in a temporary way; there are only a few that are permanent officers. I say that simply to indicate that Mr. Fawcett was to all intents and purposes a Government surveyor, although he had only been in the employ of the Government from time to time. In 1892 Mr. Fawcett was permanently appointed in the Surveyor General's branch of the department. He had passed the examination necessary to such appointment and the record of his temporary service was good. In consequence of the report of the Surveyor General made to me on 5th of March, 1897, and followed by another letter on 12th April, I caused Mr. Fawcett to be appointed, and he was sent out in time to get to the Yukon district by the first opening of the water on the Yukon River. There was no delay; he got there just as soon as it was possible for him to have got there.

Now, the members of the House understand and know that I have been accused by the Conservative press throughout this country of finding Mr. Ogilvie in charge of the Yukon district and of removing him. Members of the House know, if they have read the Opposition press, that it has been charged that I found Mr. Ogilvie in charge of the Yukon district, he having been appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite and put in charge of that district, and that I removed him. Mr. Ogilvie never was in charge of

the Yukon district, and under the hon. gentlemen opposite he never had anything to do with it. They never recognized Mr. Ogilvie in connection with the Yukon district. They never paid any attention to him, and they never read his reports. Mr. Ogilvie was sent out there as topographical surveyor in connection with the boundary survey and he had no connection with the Yukon district. It was only the ability, fairness and dignity of character of Mr. Ogilvie that caused him to be recognized by the people there as a man to whom they could go and refer any causes of dispute. The other officer in charge of the district was Capt. Constantine, and Capt. Constantine asked to be relieved. Hon. gentlemen may ask: Why did you not appoint Mr. Ogilvie in his place? The answer is that Mr. Ogilvie asked to be allowed to come back on account of ill-health, and he came back on account of ill-health. Now, to dispose of this charge, which is one of a number, I have pointed out that there is nothing whatever in the story that I removed Mr. Ogilvie from his position; I have pointed out that he never had the position in fact, and that he came back at his own request on account of failing health. When I appointed as Gold Commissioner a surveyor. Why? Because Mr. Ogilvie, who was competent to advise the department, suggested the appointment of a surveyor; and because that suggestion was strongly supported by the Surveyor General who advised that Mr. Thomas Fawcett, a surveyor of his staff, was the sort of man that was wanted. I called upon the Surveyor General of Canada for advice, and on the recommendation of the Surveyor General of Canada I had a surveyor of his own appointed as Gold Commissioner.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they say I made mining regulations under which the records were secret. I say that I did nothing of the kind. The Mining regulations in force when Mr. Fawcett went out were the mining regulations promulgated by hon. gentlemen opposite—without change. Who made these regulations? The hon. gentlemen opposite appointed Mr. Pierce, an experienced surveyor, an able man, as able a man in his own line as there is in Canada, to prepare a set of mining regulations. Mr. Pierce was appointed Superintendent of Mines, and it was under the regulations made by him that Mr. Fawcett went to the Yukon district. There were only the slightest changes of form, and nothing as far as administration was concerned. If any change was made it was upon the recommendation of Mr. Ogilvie in regard to certain matters of detail, so as to adapt these regulations to the Yukon district, because the regulations as originally made were adapted to the requirements and conditions of the North-west Territories. In regard to the secrecy of records, whatever the practice was under the late Government, the practice was when Mr. Fawcett went out. Hon. gentlemen will remember that when he