

means by "records" but he lashes the Ministerial Union once more with a whip of sarcasm, "We have spared no pains to verify the statements made." Now, let us see who has verified the facts. We state that these men staked 2,274,560 acres of land which is recorded in the B. C. Gazette for those three years. Mr. Bowser says that only 929,000 acres were recorded, adroitly suggesting to the public that this was the total land sold in those three years. Now, I thank Mr. Bowser for bringing up this point, for it gives me the opportunity of frankly confessing that while we are quite correct in giving these figures as the area staked by these men in those three years, we are entirely wrong in assuming that they represent the actual sales in that period. Mr. Ross when he gave the figures for the years 1904 to 1911 which I have already referred to gave the total for the three years 1908-1910 as 2,832,773 acres, or 558,213 acres more than we quote as being staked. (Applause.) Over half a million acres more than we mention, and nearly a million more than Mr. Bowser says was recorded. Again I thank him for the correction. (Loud applause.)

Some Bowser Figures.

Take another sample of the attorney-general's verification. On page 28 he says distinctly that in the past twelve years only two millions of acres have been Crown-granted, "while 1,300,000 acres have been located by pre-emptors." Now according to Hon. Mr. Ross' figures ("Journals" for 1912, page 21), he is 556,309 acres short on the Crown-grants to purchasers, while only 705,080 pre-emptions were deeded, and no man knows how many of those pre-emptions he says were located have already been abandoned or cancelled. I have shown you by the Minister of Lands' report that last year alone 25 per cent of those inspected were cancelled and another 22 per cent were liable to cancellation. As a matter of fact this report gives a total of 3,552,942 acres as having been deeded during the past 12 years, so Mr. Bowser is entirely wrong in his figures. (Applause.) Again, he says the government has agreed to sell less than 5,200,000 acres in the last 10 years, but Mr. Ross again contradicts him, for in his speech of January last in the house on page 9 he gives the figures as 22,509 more than Mr. Bowser quotes, and over 4,900,000 acres of this has gone since the passing of the 1907 amendment. (Applause.) The fact is these two gentlemen, the minister of lands and the minister of agriculture, can-

not seem to agree upon anything relating to their own records and the Ministerial Union has to step in to correct them both. (Loud laughter and applause.) Here is another example. Mr. Bowser scourges us heavily on page 25 for stating that the B. C. Gazette for October 3rd, 1912, covers applications advertised in one week only. He states that we say 1051 applications for lands amounting to 492,414 acres were made in one week only. Now, the gentleman is wrong even in quoting both sets of figures, and in the interpretation he puts on our statement. He makes the area about 30,000 acres more than we give, in fact he seems incapable of quoting figures correctly even with the printed pamphlet in his hands. (Laughter.) What we say is that the record of applications published in a single weekly issue of the Gazette is 1052 applications for 464,995 acres. And there is no other way of putting it without falling into the grievous error Mr. Bowser has made without seeming conscious of it. Just because what he says about advertisements running for several weeks is true, if you take more than one week's issue you get all tangled up with overlappings, and make statements entirely false. The attorney-general gives us a perfect illustration of this. He ridicules us for quoting James Scott as having staked 74,000 acres of land, when according to Mr. Bowser he only got 47,000. When I heard Mr. Bowser make that statement I wondered if that was one rascally printer's error that had escaped our utmost vigilance. But when I looked up the record afterwards I saw where Mr. Bowser had tumbled headfirst into the pit he had dug for us. (Laughter.) He says: "In the Gazette of August 8th and 22nd and Sept. 5th, there was advertised a total in the name of Scott of 47,440 acres." Quite possibly true, Mr. Bowser; but in the Gazette of October 3rd, one week's issue, there was advertised in the name of James Scott not simply 47,000 nor 74,000 either, but a total of 75,980 acres. (Applause.) And here is every single name he used, the location and acreage, the address and occupation, and even the page of the Gazette on which each appears. This is a complete abstract from that one week's Gazette, therefore it gives additional stakings which we did not at first include because they were smaller areas scattered singly over other pages. We were not after minor details, but the main facts. Now, ladies and gentlemen, which of us have taken most pains "to verify every statement made"? (Loud applause.)