

Mr. McMULLEN. The Minister no doubt understands that in the Printing Bureau there is an immense quantity of type kept constantly standing for the purposes of the voters' list. Is there any account taken of the money invested in that enormous quantity of type ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. There is no interest account kept. The lists are kept standing, and that is the system adopted by South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand. I have no estimate of the quantity of type kept standing but of course it is very large.

Mr. McMULLEN. My object was to ascertain if an interest account was kept. If not, the prices charged for labour do not represent anything like the actual cost.

Mr. MONTAGUE. No Government keeps such an account. For example, it would not do to charge the interest on these buildings, against legislation.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. When the Printing Bureau, was established, it was proposed to print the lists there, and a large amount of money was invested in type for the purpose of having the lists kept set up continuously from one revision to another. Now, the Government have adopted a different system. At first the lists were printed entirely at the bureau, and outside printers had nothing whatever to do with the work. Since then, when revisions have taken place, the Government have seen fit to have the preliminary lists printed at offices throughout the country in the different ridings where the revision has taken place. According to figures given by the Secretary of State, the preliminary lists cost \$35,000, while the printing of the final lists at the bureau cost \$40,000. It will thus be seen that the preliminary lists cost within \$5,000 of the final lists. If the preliminary lists were printed in the bureau, the type would not have to be re-set for all the changes made. As occurs now the type is set in the country printing offices where the preliminary lists are printed and these lists are sent to the bureau and re-set there; so the printing actually costs almost double that which it would cost if the system which the Government proposed when it invested in the Printing Bureau was followed, or at all events there would be a saving of one-quarter. Undoubtedly a large sum of money is wasted in having the lists printed outside and re-printed in the bureau. Could not something be done to change this system ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. In reply to the remarks of the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Somerville), who is a practical printer, I may say that the difficulty lies in the time allowed between the preliminary lists being prepared and the time when those lists had to be corrected. There are very many of such lists, and after all they do not

affect the lists standing in block for the final list. The preliminary lists are not the whole lists; they include a certain number of names which are to be put on, added or subtracted from other lists. I have discussed the whole matter with the Queen's Printer, and he tells me that he was given carte blanche to do what he believed to be cheapest in that regard, and he adopted the present system.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I understood the Secretary of State to say that only a small number of names were printed at the outside offices.

Mr. MONTAGUE. As compared with the total names.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not quite follow the hon. gentleman. I understand the cost was three cents per name. If the preliminary list cost \$35,000 or thereabouts, that rate would be sufficient for about one million voters.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman must remember there is the heading for each polling sub-division for which 50 cents are allowed.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. That would not amount to a very large sum, even allowing 20 or 30 sub-divisions for each constituency. The great bulk of payment must be for names, and if \$30,000 are required, it is quite clear that the preliminary lists must comprise the bulk of the voters, as \$30,000 is sufficient to meet the expense of one million voters at 3 cents per name. This fact materially strengthens the contention of the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Somerville), that a good deal of money is wasted in dividing this work between outside offices and the bureau here.

Mr. HUGHES. In connection with the preliminary lists, I think, the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Somerville), if he considers the matter, will see that it would be a very expensive method to have the preliminary lists printed at the bureau here. The preliminary lists are made up of three separate lists; a list with the names to be added, a list with names to be removed and a list of names to be corrected. Suppose these preliminary lists were set up here and the type kept standing, that would be of very little advantage to the printer because he would have to come along and pick up the line and place it in its proper place in the final list. I am satisfied, from having had experience in printing both the preliminary and final lists, that this would lead to endless confusion and endless mistakes. It is quite possible that a much large number of names might appear on the preliminary lists than on the final list. There are, as I have said, three classes of lists. There is a list of names to be added, nearly all of which would be added, then there is a list of names to be removed, many of which would be re-