

body of temperance men, met in the tower room for the purpose of taking into consideration the supposed conditions to be attached to the vote on the plebiscite question, and that a committee was appointed to wait upon his honour the leader of the government and, among other things, they were to protest before him against any liquor being allowed to be sold in the Yukon country, and his honour, the leader of the government answered him :

As to liquor permits, so far, there was no sale of liquor in the Yukon.

The question I want to know is this : if the government is aware that the North-west government did, in the latter part of January send a member of the government and an official to the Yukon country for the purpose of establishing and regulating the sale of liquor in that country. If the government is aware of that fact, then I think it is rather an evasive and improper answer to be given to that committee. I would like to know also if the government of the North-west Territories has the power to control and regulate the sale of liquor in that country, or whether the power is vested in the Federal government at Ottawa ?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I may say to the hon. gentleman that I do not read all the newspapers, that I have not time, that the matters to which my hon. friend has referred have not come under my attention and if he had put his notice upon the paper in the regular way I would have been prepared to give him a more satisfactory answer than I can under the circumstances. The hon. gentleman knows that as far as the North-west Territories government is concerned there were no specific limitations mentioned in the bill creating that government and legislature and giving them jurisdiction over that territory. I cannot say—the hon. gentleman would know better than I do—what that government has undertaken to accomplish. I can only tell my hon. friend that the government are preparing measures to submit to parliament to define the limits of the government of the North-west Territories and to provide for the government of the Yukon country. My hon. friend knows that those territories are not provinces, that we expect them to be settled in the course of time, that during the progress of settlement the provinces are likely to be barred

out of the territory now very extensive and embraced, for the moment, under one government. We shall submit to this House and to the House of Commons a measure relating to the government of the Yukon country and my hon. friend will see precisely what the provisions of that bill are. With regard to permits, of course, the hon. gentleman knows that that subject is not under the jurisdiction of my department, and I can only answer questions relating to other departments of which I have had notice, and if my hon. friend wants a more definite answer than I have given him—and I would give him a full answer if I had the power to do so—he will have to put a notice on the paper, and then I will give him all the information I can obtain.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I would take the opportunity of suggesting to the government that it would be a very wise thing now to institute the same system in the development of the Yukon territory as was instituted in the development of the North-west Territories, and that for the time being at any rate that the sale of liquor should be prohibited except under some restricted system.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I might be permitted to add, unlike the Minister of Justice, I have read that interview in the *Citizen*, in the *Montreal Witness*, in the Toronto papers and also in the *Journal*, and it is reported a little differently in the different papers, and slightly different from that read by my hon. friend from the west. The Prime Minister gave a somewhat similar answer to the deputations to that just given by the Minister of Justice, that the matter was under their consideration. The only inference you can draw from his reply is that they have not yet decided as to what the powers of the government of the North-west Territories were ; but I saw this morning an answer to a letter sent by the secretary representing the North-west government in answer to a request as to whether they would grant a permit for the taking of liquor into and selling of liquor in the Yukon territory. The answer was that upon a regular application being made to the administrator, who I believe is the premier of that province just now, I am not sure—

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—Mr. Haultain.