

As the Government had prepared a measure by which money would be spared and time would be saved, he must accept the explanation and hoped it would meet the requirements of the case, although at the same time he could not refrain from expressing his doubts as to the result.

HON. MR. SUTHERLAND rose up to support his honorable colleague in his enquiry, for which he considered there was a great necessity. He was aware that an application for patents had been made by a considerable number of the inhabitants, but he was not aware that any had been received. What was the reason why these patents had not been issued? For his own part he could not conceive of any obstacle. Perhaps the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government could give them some explanation on that point. He was not at all satisfied with matters as they stood at present, or with the explanations that had been offered. Two years ago he had received the same explanations himself, but to-day these explanations were no longer tenable. He was sorry to say that a very great indifference existed somewhere in regard to this question. Hon. gentlemen would understand how very undesirable a position the whole Province was in, when not one inch of the land on which settlers resided was their own, because, as his hon. colleague had just remarked, all could be said that old settlers had to show for it was an insertion in a certain book kept by the Hudson Bay Company, of which they had little interest in keeping any record. After referring to a case which had come before his own knowledge as to the malfeasance of an officer in the department, he reminded hon. gentlemen that neither of the grievances, that of the lands to be given to the half-breeds and the issuing of patents, had as yet been settled, and he would impress upon them in conclusion that these were not sentiments peculiar to himself or to his colleagues, but were largely shared in by the rest of the inhabitants of Manitoba.

HON. MR. SCOTT could not speak as to the particular case alluded to by the hon. gentleman, but he had no doubt that had the hon. gentleman called the

attention of the department to it the matter would have been investigated. With regard to the general question he would say again that no unnecessary delay had been exercised by the department in carrying out liberally and generously all the provisions in regard to the North-West. The patents were going out as rapidly as possible. Where cases were disputed, where laws overlapped each other, some delay must necessarily arise, but their interests were safe so long as the Government held the fee of the land; but it was not possible to carry the work forward with the rapidity which the hon. representatives of the Province thought and no doubt was desirable.

PRINTING OF BILLS.

HON. MR. SCOTT then said, that in accordance with the suggestion made by the hon. Speaker for hastening the printing of bills for the second reading, he would move that a change be made, such as that provided for in the other Chamber, and, he believed in the House of Lords, that bills be printed immediately after the first reading. Carried.

AGRICULTURAL RETURNS.

The HON. MR. LETELLIER then laid on the Table the Agricultural Returns for the year ending December, 31st, 1874. He explained that if there had been any delay, it arose from the fact of some of the returns not having been sent in till January. The returns were for the other departments made up to June 30.

NOVA SCOTIA BILL.

The HON. MR. MILLER moved the first reading of an Act to repeal certain provisions in the Act of Nova Scotia. Carried.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE.

The HON. MR. LETELLIER then moved that the last order on the notice—to resume the debate on the Reciprocity motions—should be the first order of the day. Carried.

RECIPROCITY NEGOTIATIONS.

On motion for the resumption of the debate being carried,

HON. MR. CAMPBELL rose to express how very desirable and convenient it would be if the House under-