

Mr. MONTAGUE. This is the way it occurred. The question was asked by my department of the Queen's Printer, what the amount paid out for printing had been. The Queen's Printer thought that the officer who asked him for the information only referred to the amount which had actually been paid out to newspaper offices outside the bureau, and the answer they gave him did not include the cost of printing here at Ottawa, which was a little over \$40,000.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I understand the Minister's explanation, and it is a little unsatisfactory in one respect. When a question of this kind is asked, What is the entire cost of revising the Dominion voters' lists, if the total cost is not yet fully ascertained, how much of it is ascertained, and what is the estimate of the Government as to the unascertained cost? when an answer is given as explicitly as it was by the Minister, it is accepted by the press and by the House as a total amount, and it has gone out to the country a month ago that the revision of the voters' lists does not cost so much as was represented at the time, that it does not cost more than \$200,000. Now we find that it is \$240,000. But the idea is abroad and the country is under the impression that the cost is less than \$240,000. It is unfortunate that answers should be given in this way. In reference to the cost of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic, I think the House has been given two or three varying amounts.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Over the amount.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Over or under, I cannot tell which. When you give varying answers, we are at a loss to know which is correct. I mention this because I think that when a question is asked like this, if anything like a definite answer can be given, it should be given; and, if not, it should be made sufficiently clear that more is to follow. Now, I understand that this \$40,000 will complete the total amount required.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think the hon. gentleman has some reason to find fault, although the erroneous statement was made unintentionally. This vote covers everything. The revision of the list will cost \$240,000.

Mr. McMULLEN. What percentage of the printing was done in Ottawa, and what outside?

Mr. MONTAGUE. All of what we call the final electoral lists were printed in the bureau, with the exception of the lists of Toronto and Montreal. The hon. gentleman will see that all the preliminary lists, as already explained, are printed in the constituencies, but no final lists, except those of Montreal and Toronto.

Mr. McMULLEN. I want to know the value of the work done in the bureau and the work done outside.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant).

Mr. MONTAGUE. I gave the figures to the hon. member for South Brant. It cost \$40,000 for the inside printing, and \$35,000 for the outside printing. I have not the figures by me at the moment, but if the hon. gentleman will turn to the answer I gave when the item was up the other day, and which was absolutely correct, he will see that the item paid for printing the final lists outside was a very small one.

Mr. McMULLEN. The Minister says \$35,000 was paid for outside printing which was done in Montreal and Toronto. Now, if it costs \$35,000 to print the lists for Montreal and Toronto—

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. He forgets that every constituency first has a preliminary list printed. The final lists for all the constituencies were printed outside the bureau, and the cost of those lists for the 215 constituencies is included in the \$35,000, as well as the final lists for Toronto and Montreal.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. What is the amount allowed for the printing of the preliminary lists?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Three cents a name, and 50 cents for the heading of the polling sub-divisions. That rate was adopted some years ago, and has not been changed.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I do not quite understand how the book-keeping is done in your department. You say about \$40,000 was paid for printing in the bureau. Do you credit the bureau with printing the names at the same rate that you allow to outside offices? Does that go to the credit of the expense account for working the bureau, and to the debit of the wages? In other words, does the bureau pay its own expenses? Is there sufficient work done to pay all the employees and the expenditure connected with it? If so, is what you credit it for work done on the voters' list, done at the same rate as you pay outside offices?

Mr. MONTAGUE. As to the manner in which the bureau is run, I may say that it is run purely as a business concern, and on business principles, and the instructions of the department to the Queen's Printer are to run it absolutely as he would run his own private business.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). And make it pay?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes. The matter to which attention has been called is a matter of book-keeping. Each department gets supplies from the Stationery Department and Queen's Printer, and these are charged against each department. As to the lists, I think the price mentioned is the absolute cost of printing them; I am not sure about that however.