

Mr. U. WILSON. The patentee has not to get a regular machine made, as was formerly required.

Mr. FISHER. The application for a patent must be accompanied by what is called a working drawing—a drawing by following which a mechanic could make the article. This is submitted to the examiner. If the patent is issued, that is all the applicant has to do with it. We have to print a picture of that patent for the information of the public, and the making of all these cuts is expensive. If the 'Patent Record' were all letterpress, it could be printed for half the money.

Mr. U. WILSON. Under the old system, the patentee had to furnish a model.

Mr. FISHER. That was done away with years ago.

Mr. U. WILSON. But it was not provided that they should furnish a cut as well as a drawing?

Mr. FISHER. No. The change with regard to models was made fifteen years ago.

Mr. U. WILSON. It is not that long since you sold the old models.

Mr. FISHER. No.

Mr. BERGERON. Have all those models been disposed of?

Mr. FISHER. Long ago.

Census and statistics, \$30,000.

Mr. BERGERON. Is the work of the census still going on?

Mr. FISHER. Not of the decennial census. But we have a Census Bureau which takes the place of the old statistical office, and every year we are taking a census of some special kind and issuing the figures in bulletin form.

Mr. BERGERON. Are all the volumes of the last census issued in French and English?

Mr. FISHER. Yes; long ago. The volumes were printed with alternate pages in French and English.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not remember having received these volumes. How many were there?

Mr. FISHER. Speaking from memory, four volumes. The whole work was finished two or three years ago, and I have not the information under my hand at the moment.

Mr. BERGERON. I have often received pamphlets and bluebooks of census statistics, but I do not remember receiving any bound volumes.

Mr. FISHER. They were sent out with the sessional papers, in the usual way, to all members of the House.

Mr. BERGERON. I remember that the volumes of the census of 1880 were bound in a green cloth, making fine volumes for a library. I do not remember receiving the volumes of the last census in that form.

Mr. FISHER. Those of last census were bound in yellow cloth. They were of the same size as the others, so that they could be placed with them on a library shelf. They were issued three years ago.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture to consider the advisability of gathering statistics from foreign countries and giving the people of Canada some idea what the nations of the world are doing in their trade with other countries. It is practically impossible to obtain any information in regard to foreign trade between different nations by looking through our statistics. If the hon. gentleman will investigate some of the United States reports he will find how important and necessary it is and I sincerely hope that some effort will be made in that direction.

Mr. FISHER. I confess that I have taken a different view. I thought it was better for us to confine our attention largely to the statistics of our own country and to give that information to the world at large as completely and as frequently as possible. Of course, I can understand that some people, like my hon. friend (Mr. Armstrong), perhaps, who is studying trade questions, will find it very convenient to have abstracts made of the foreign blue-books, but it would be a very laborious process if we had an office for that purpose. The number of people in the country who would be interested in it would be comparatively small and they can get that information out of blue-books or official statements of foreign countries. Nearly all the governments now issue information about their own countries and these publications are available all over Canada and in the library of parliament here for reference and study. If the House wishes to have an office of the statistical bureau devoted to that kind of work, of course I can organize it. But I really think that it would be more important for us in Canada to tabulate the statistics of our own country.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It would occur to me that it would be well for the minister to remember that he has the census staff between the decennial and quinquennial census. I do not know whether more are required or not. It may be possible that they are not very busy.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, they are very busy.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. They are really overworked?

Mr. FISHER. I hope they are not overworked, but they are busy.