

Hon. Mr. MILLS—None whatever.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I am very glad to hear that. It only remains for me to say that I hope the government will press for a settlement of this boundary question as soon as possible. The longer it is delayed the more difficult it will become, for this reason, the United States government have taken possession up to the limits of their own contention and are now occupying with settlers and in other ways territory which may properly belong to Canada. The longer a settlement is delayed, the more difficult it will be to end the dispute, because it will be most difficult to oust any party, either an individual or a company, that may be settled in the disputed territory. With regard to those inlets spoken of in the dispute which I have read, it is contended by many persons who have gone into the question that the Lynn Canal, on which are situated the town of Juneau and the villages of Dyea and Skagway, belongs to the Dominion of Canada by right. And if that is the case, it would make a very great difference to our rights, and to our navigation in that country, in reaching the Yukon. I do not intend to deal at all with the treaty of 1825, or to put any interpretation upon it. That will be left to the diplomatists, and the legal talent of the two countries concerned. The request upon the government is not to waste any time, but to endeavour to confer with the government at Washington and settle the question as early as possible.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I may say to my hon. friend, the government have brought the matter under the attention of the Colonial office, the Secretary of which will no doubt communicate with his colleague, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and, so far as this government is concerned, they invited the action of the Imperial government on the subject. It is for Her Majesty's government at Westminster to discuss the question with the government at Washington, and I have no doubt they will do so.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—The Imperial government requires considerable stirring up. In the Behring Sea we had, year after year, to urge them to take some action in the matter, to appoint a commission of something of that kind, before anything was done.

LIQUOR PERMITS IN YUKON DISTRICT.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY moved :

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before the Senate, all correspondence by letters or telegrams between the Federal government, at Ottawa, and His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of the North-west Territories, in reference to the granting of liquor permits or the introduction of liquor into the Yukon district, during the last six months; also, any correspondence with the government of the North-west Territories regarding the rights of the North-west Territories in regard to issuing liquor permits for the taking of intoxicating liquor into the Yukon district.

He said : Before making this motion, I do not wish it to be understood that I am in favour of issuing permits for the North-west Territories or the Yukon district, but it has been stated in this House by the hon. Secretary of State, I think, that the government of the North-west Territories had the right under the North-west Territories Act, to control the sale of liquor in that portion of the country, and the hon. gentleman, I think, also stated that the government had directed that the administrator in the North-west Territories should withhold the granting of licenses, or the sale of permits in that country. If that is the fact, and the North-west Territories have, by statute, the right to control the sale of liquors in that country, then the government have done the territories a very great injustice, in a financial sense, by withholding from them a right from which they should obtain a very large amount of revenue. I understand there has been considerable correspondence between the two governments on this particular question, which I should like to see brought down, so that we shall be able to form an opinion as to what the intention was, and better enable ourselves to judge of the stand taken by the government. No permits can be issued, I think, except under the hand of the Lieutenant Governor.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Hon. gentlemen know well that the government of the North-west Territories is practically a colonial government of Canada. It is growing every year more and more into the principles and system of responsible government, and I have no doubt at an early day those principles will be effectually carried out in respect to the executive government of that country.