

MR. MILLS said it would require the expenditure of a very considerable sum to furnish a proper museum, before that branch of the Department of the Interior could be transferred from Montreal to Ottawa, and, until a proper building had been erected here, no steps could be taken. It would, certainly, be more convenient if located in Ottawa. In Montreal, they were paying \$1,000 per annum for rent, and this sum, if capitalized, would be something towards the expense of the new erection.

MR. LANGEVIN said they were called on to vote \$50,000 for geological surveys, without having any report from the Geological Department as to the way in which the money had been expended, or what progress had been made.

MR. MILLS said the report was prepared, and would shortly be published.

MR. TUPPER said this was the first time the House had been asked to vote money in advance of having a report.

MR. MILLS: It has always been the case in this item.

MR. TUPPER said he was quite satisfied that the report was, at any rate, furnished during the Session. In the absence of a report, the Minister of the Interior ought to favour the House with an outline of what had been accomplished. It might be extremely convenient to the Government to pay \$6,000 or \$7,000 per year to a partizan printing company, the *Herald Publishing Company* of Montreal, to publish this report, but the public would feel more assured that justice was being done to the revenue of the country if the work had to be let out by contract in the usual way. The House should not be called on to vote this money without having an explanation from the hon. the Minister of the Interior, as to the amount of work done, and how the money had been expended.

MR. MILLS said the hon. gentleman would find in his report the information he now asked for, giving the districts in which geological explorations were carried on, the general outlays, and the work done up to the beginning of the winter. There was the work of

explorations done in British Columbia by two exploring parties; the exploration of the phosphate regions about Ottawa, the coal regions of Cumberland and St. John, Quebec, and the copper mines in that Province. A full and complete detail in regard to these explorations would be given in the report. The report was being published at the contract price paid previously to Dawson, publisher in Montreal.

MR. BOWELL said the work could be done cheaper in Ottawa. The reason given for having the printing done in Montreal was, that it would be more convenient for the Geological Department in having the proofs examined, but there could be no difficulty in sending the proofs to Montreal. He did not see why the hon. member for Cumberland should find fault with the Government for having this work done by a partizan newspaper establishment. If there was any truth in public rumour, there were members in the Cabinet interested in that establishment. It was known a venerable Senator was interested in it, and it was necessary, for party purposes, that those devices should be adopted to prevent those difficulties occurring to the *Herald Company* which had occurred to another Government organ. The probabilities were, that the sums paid to the different printing offices throughout Quebec, especially the Montreal *Herald Company*, were much larger than it was found necessary to pay in the city of Ottawa; but, until the accounts were before the House, it was impossible to say. Judging, however, from the past, and from the evidence of the Postmaster-General, he thought they would be justified in drawing the inference that the amount paid for printing the Geological Report was much larger than it would have been if the work had been done in this city. The Minister of the Interior shook his head, but until he had seen the account, he (Mr. Bowell) questioned whether he was in a position to give a negative. He supposed this system would be carried on, however, until some action was taken in Parliament to expose the action of the Government in subsidizing their partizan