

pose thousands of letters, certainly hundreds, asking me to give authority to issue permits. The Act of course expressly states that the Lieutenant-Governor issues the permit, and the fact that I received the letters proved very conclusively that it was a matter of common knowledge that it was through the Department of the Interior the permit would issue.

Mr. DAVIN. But we never really have had an explanation from the Minister (Mr. Sifton) as to why he allowed these thousands upon thousands of gallons to go into the Yukon; and he might tell us, in passing, why he did it. It was a most extraordinary thing to give a man in Manitoba the power to take in this large quantity of liquor.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have not got the statement under my hand at the present time, but I have no objection to discuss it at any time I am prepared with the documents.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) has given us the figures, but he has not given the people of the country the explanation as to why he gave these permits to such a number of private individuals. My information is that those private individuals multiplied the quantity, and took in many times the amount they got permission to take in.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) would not hold me responsible for that.

Mr. DAVIN. No; but it shows the character of the men to whom the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) advised a great officer of the Crown to give permission.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I venture to say that not a single one of the persons or corporations who got the permits, has taken in as large a quantity as he was authorized to. I am, of course, making that statement without absolute mathematical knowledge.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. At all events there was a kind of a hot time in Dawson City.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have said that I did not make the statement from mathematical knowledge, and the only way I could prove such a statement would be by getting a return of the amount taken in. I venture to say that as to the persons who received permission on my direction, having made application to the Department of the Interior, none of them up to the present time, has taken in as much as he was authorized to take in by the permit.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. Minister can easily explain why he directed the Lieutenant-Governor to give permission to these private parties to take in large quantities of liquor. With regard to what the hon. member for

Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) says. I have read reports from every part of the Yukon district, and especially from Dawson, saying that at every turn there was a saloon. Where did that liquor come from?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Not under any permit issued by me or my direction. It went in under proceedings that were taken before I took office.

Mr. DAVIN. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) was lavish enough in directing to have thousands of gallons go in.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not think that has done any harm there yet.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. You think it has not materialized there?

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) does not know how quick his friends are. Our information is that his friends actually took in the quantity allowed, and took in a great deal more, and made a large amount of money out of it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Which particular friend do you refer to?

Mr. DAVIN. That Manitoba friend.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The gentleman from Oak Lake?

Mr. DAVIN. Yes; I think that one.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not think he has had an opportunity of taking in any.

Mr. DAVIN. Does the Minister know all about him? He seems to be very familiar with these whisky pedlars. What we do want to get from the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is an explanation as to why it was that he, in charge of the Yukon, and having the responsibility, asked the Lieutenant-Governor to give permission to take in that whisky. Does not the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) see that under the question I am putting, it does not matter whether the whisky has gone in or not, but what I want to know is, why the Minister was moved to ask the Lieutenant-Governor to give the permits.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I can appreciate the hostility of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) to liquor, and I have no objection to giving the explanation as to how this took place. The arrangement that I found in vogue when I took charge of the department was—this I was informed by the late Deputy Minister, Mr. Burgess—was, that the Department of the Interior gave direction what liquor was to be taken in there. In the first place, the department had decided that it was impossible with the police force then in the district, to undertake to keep liquor out absolutely, and they then decided they would allow a certain amount of liquor to go in upon the direction of the