

I do not think there is so much credit to be given to the Senate for throwing out that Bill as the hon. senator claimed. Another Bill thrown out by the Senate was the Yukon Railway Bill. I think it was a mistake on the part of the Senate to defeat that Bill.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—That Bill was based largely on the Canadian Pacific Railway scheme. Alternate sections of land were to be given as a subsidy in the country through which the road was to pass, yet we hear senators even to-day saying the government were giving away a province to that railway. The land was a terra incognita; it was mostly rock. There might have been minerals, but the company that took the chances of building a railway through that country took very great risks, and I do not believe you could get any company—you certainly could not get the same company—to enter into such a contract to-day. That portion of the country is a dead letter, but if a railway had been built through it the land would have been opened up and mining, lumbering and other industries developed up.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Can my hon. friend tell us why the government did not re introduce that Bill if it was so good a measure?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—Simply because they gave away the whole business to the United States, and United States capitalists built a railway in there in opposition to this Canadian route. That, of course, turned the tide of trade away from the Dominion to the bordering states on the Pacific. I do not know whether it is true or not, but it was reported at that time, and has since been intimated, that United States lobbyists were around the Senate at that time, and probably the fate of the Bill was the result of lobbying. I do not say it was; I do not know whether it is true or not, but if that is the case it is the biggest slur ever cast on the Senate.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman is misrepresenting, unintentionally no doubt, the whole Bill and the country through which the road was to pass.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—I do not understand the hon. gentleman.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I have no doubt the hon. gentleman is unintentionally misrepresenting the object and character of the Bill and the character of the country through which the road was to pass as well as the subsidies which were to be given in aid of the enterprise.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—I am not misrepresenting it at all. Every alternate section was to be given on the way. You did the same thing with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and have since been claiming that you made the lands of the Northwest valuable by building the Canadian Pacific Railway through them. The same results would have followed had the Yukon Railway Bill not been defeated.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The Bill did not propose to give one single acre of land to the company in the part of the country through which the line was to run.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—The question is asked, why did they reject the Bill?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—We will tell you that by and by.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—I do not know; perhaps it was all right for the Senate to throw out the Bill. At the same time there are very grave doubts about it. I think the Senate is deserving of credit for having thrown out other Bills. No doubt questions will come up in this Senate which we will probably throw out after serious consideration. I notice at the present time that some of our newspaper friends forecast that in the near future the Senate will throw out some Bills. I should like to know how they get that information? I think it is a piece of impertinence for any journalist to pass judgment in this regard. Those people who are anxious that the Senate should be abolished I think should be sufficiently satiated with the changes that are taking place in this chamber at the present time. The figures I pointed out a few minutes ago show that the Senate is changing fast enough to please any body or any section of men. New elements are coming in every day and old men who gave this Senate a character are passing away very fast, to our great regret. Some of the older men