

in the eyes of Mackenzie & Mann, they have offered a mining engineer \$25,000 a year to go up to the Yukon for them. That is a mining engineer of British Columbia, who has been paid a salary by the province, and he is now offered \$25,000 by this company to go up there.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That is rather an argument in favour of the contract.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B. C.)—It shows what they expect.

Hon. Mr. POWER—It shows they do not expect to let those lands lie fallow. The company cannot select an acre of land until ten miles of the railway have been built. The miners are now in there and they can get in certainly quicker than the road can be built.

Hon. Mr. ALMON—Am I rightly informed that a miner can only take up one claim? I have been told that the amount is not as large as the hon. gentleman has stated.

Hon. Mr. POWER—A large number of miners can associate themselves together and take up a quantity of land. The 23rd paragraph of the contract reads as follows:

Provisions shall be made in the Act incorporating the contractors' company against any discrimination by such company in operating its railways between customers, whether by discriminating rates or treatment or otherwise, or by means of its steamships or other connections or otherwise.

That is a very important thing in the interests of the public. Looking at the thing from the point of view of a fairly impartial man, I fail to see any objection to this contract. It provides for the doing of the work promptly and by the best plan, and it does not take a dollar out of the treasury. What does it do? It proposes to take the administration of about one-twentieth of the mineral land of the Yukon region out of the hands of the government and put it into the hands of the company.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—To put it fairly, they are taking the pick of the land.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That reminds me of the surprise with which I witnessed my hon. friend hold up his hands in holy horror about this agreement as being a most infamous agreement. But what does it amount to? There are seventy or eighty million acres of mineral lands in the Klondike. This company are not to have their

pick; the free miners have had several months already and have some more months to go and choose what they please. The company are to be allowed to select 3,750,000 acres out of that immense quantity. Supposing half of the mining lands were given to the company, I honestly cannot see that it would be such a very serious matter for eastern Canada. It simply means that this company will exploit these mineral lands instead of having them exploited by individuals, the majority of whom would probably be foreigners.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Bind them down to do so and it is all right.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—You are speaking of eastern Canada, but it is different with the North-west.

Hon. Mr. POWER—It does not make any difference to the people of the North-west Territories. Mackenzie & Mann do not propose to do as has been done with the lands in the North-west. They do not propose to allow them to lie fallow until they have been made valuable by the expenditure and work of other people. They propose to go in and spend their own money and make these lands valuable.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—And pick them?

Hon. Mr. POWER—Pick some of them. The hon. gentleman should not keep picking at that all the time. Does the hon. gentleman suppose that any company would undertake to construct such a railway as that without getting something in return?

Hon. Mr. DEVER—Why do not other people make an offer if the lands are so valuable?

Hon. Mr. POWER—There has been no offer to do it. We pay no money for it, and I repeat that I do not see that it makes any serious difference to the country whether the mines are exploited by Mckenzie & Mann or by the miners who will go in there and who are mostly foreigners.

Hon. Mr. ALMON—What did the people of Nova Scotia think when the mines down there were given over to the Duke of York? Were there not a great many deputations sent over to get relief, and when this is imposed on the people of the North-west