

departmental buildings erected on Mackenzie avenue and when they are erected this hotel will be thrust into the midst of the government buildings and parliament grounds. The government that would approve a scheme of that kind may be expected to do almost anything. Next session we may find that the new departmental block has been leased for a dance hall or that the library of parliament has been devoted to the purposes of a permanent circus. Either proposal would be little less shocking than the proposal which the government now submits to this parliament. This is national property. In 1898 the Minister of Public Works of the day justified the expenditure of a very large sum to erect a fence around this park on the grounds that this was a national property.

We take this national property immediately contiguous to and indeed forming part of the grounds of this parliament, and we propose to build an hotel upon it. If there were no other place in Ottawa suitable for the purpose, I would not protest so strongly; but there are places without number which would be just as suitable as this for an hotel. I admit that the city of Ottawa ought to have a good hotel; but it may be a question how far parliament should intervene for the purpose of supplying the deficiency. If the Grand Trunk Railway Company build an hotel there, I have no doubt that it will be a good one, and will be operated in an efficient and creditable manner. But when you say all that, you afford no justification for placing that hotel on one of the lawns of parliament or appropriating Major's Hill Park for the purpose. I regret very much that the government has seen fit to adopt this course. I had hoped, from their long delay in proceeding, that they had receded from the proposal. They might at least have come to parliament in the first instance—because it is now plain that there was no need of any haste—and have obtained the views of the representatives of the people from the Atlantic to the Pacific before undertaking to appropriate a portion of the national domain for the purpose of building an hotel at the very doors of parliament, and on grounds which have been regarded with pride by all the people of the country as forming part of the beautiful lawns on which these parliament buildings are erected, and on which they ought to be extended in the future.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There are two sides to this question, as to every other. But before I proceed any further, I must say that for my part I cannot find fault with the fastidious aestheticism of my hon. friends on the other side of the House. It is very creditable to them in one sense. The people of Ottawa want the hotel, and they are not likely to suffer because a por-

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

tion of the park is to be taken for the purpose, especially in view of the fact that the money which is to come from the transaction is to be devoted to extending Major's Hill Park to Nepean Point.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the authority for that?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The authority will be given by parliament.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the authority for saying that the park is to be extended to Nepean Point?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is a part of the exchange.

Mr. FOSTER. Not at all.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. At all events, the money is to go to the Ottawa Improvement Commission, and if that is not provided for, it may be yet provided for. Everybody will agree with me that that is a most laudable provision. Now that we have public buildings erected in that direction, the time has come when we should make that extension, and I think we could not do a better thing with the proceeds of this transaction than to use the money for such a purpose. While a good deal of objection has been taken to the action of the government, everybody realizes that we must have an hotel, but people have not been very ready to come forward with offers to build an hotel. The Grand Trunk Railway Company selected the proposed site, and the government, after considering the matter, came to the conclusion that it would be advisable to agree to it. Does anybody believe that an hotel placed there will not be an ornament to the city? On the one hand you have the post office, on the other the station, and opposite the hotel. The two bridges, the Dufferin and the Wellington, should in my opinion be united and extended to the hotel, and this I understand is in contemplation. When all this is done, I believe that many gentlemen who now criticise the action of the government will change their minds, and will say that after all the city of Ottawa has not been disgraced but rather improved by the construction of these buildings.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The right hon. gentleman seems to be looking at this matter purely from the standpoint of the city of Ottawa. I am looking at it from the standpoint of this park as a portion of the national domain, and a portion of the grounds of parliament.

Mr. FOWLER. Which way is this hotel going to front?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It will front on Wellington street.

Mr. FOWLER. I might point out that there will be a fine view from the parlia-