

build a line that was not surveyed, and that is true of every railway in the North-west Territories, from which the hon. gentleman comes, or which have received appropriations from the government.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend surely will not say there is any analogy between the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway and this particular railway.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—We are not giving a dollar to this railway.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The contract of the Canadian Pacific Railway was entered into after mature consideration.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—And after three millions of dollars had been spent.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—First of all the government was defeated. That was one of the preliminary steps to a consideration of the question. Then the government advertized not only on this continent but in Europe for tenders for the building of that road, and it was a matter about which this continent and a so Europe were fully seized with the information that was required to enter fully into a discussion of it as well as the building of it.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—The hon. gentleman will remember that a second company sent in a tender. They offered to build a road without a monopoly clause, and they deposited one million of dollars in a bank as evidence of their good faith and readiness to contract with the government.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—But the point I desire to make is this, that when parliament was called to discuss the Canadian Pacific Railway contract, parliament was in full possession of all information, so that they could arrive at a satisfactory conclusion and an accurate judgment on that great undertaking, and furthermore sufficient time was given for parliament to exercise its judgment upon that question before the country was absolutely bound to hand over the land subsidy and money grant which accompanied that contract.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I would ask my hon. friend to point out to this hon. House the difference between giving a contract to this company to build this road aided by a land

grant, and any one of the railways that are branches of the Canadian Pacific Railway that run through the North-west Territories. Charters have been given in this House where no surveys were made, no plans filed and a promise of a certain number of acres per mile to aid each enterprise.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I will give my hon. friend the answer. Before parliament entered into that contract, parliament spent hundred of thousands of dollars on surveying and inspecting the route to be adopted.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—But it was not adopted. I am speaking of other roads. Take for instance the Manitoba and North-western, and half a dozen other roads in the North-west Territories. Charters have been given and lands promised and no surveys made, no deposits required and my hon. friend has supported them.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Precisely, but nothing was done under those charters until they came down to parliament.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Oh yes.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—If my hon. friend will look at the contract he will find, that notwithstanding the bill is not yet approved by parliament he has bound these contractors to proceed with the road before the 1st of March. They have deposited \$250,000 which I understand from the Secretary of State is to be forfeited in the event of any non-fulfilment of the contract, and we find these men bound to the completion of this road within a date, which would render it practically impossible for them to have it started and completed except it was fully expected by the government that irrespective of parliament they should go on and build that road. I am not finding fault with the government for entering into the contract before a session of parliament, but I find fault with them for entering on a contract about which they have no information that would justify them in alienating such a large part of the public domain. I find fault with them for entering into the contract without giving an opportunity to other contractors to tender upon this particular undertaking and to thus probably save to the country the difference between its actual value and the amount it will cost the country