

phone line between any two places in Canada. You do not give any other company the right to do that. They can erect a telegraph line between Calgary and Edmonton. They do not propose to do it. Why not say so. I have done my duty in calling the attention of the House to the matter.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I was going to ask the hon. Secretary of State to give us a definition of unorganized territory. What does it mean? I think that the northern part of Quebec, the northern part of Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta would be unorganized.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—But how does the hon. gentleman draw the line? By what principle?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They are organized in the older provinces where they introduce municipal institutions and elect a council. In the northern part of Quebec it goes north to Roberval and here in this district it goes north to the Temiskaming territory, and so on in the west.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—There will be no difficulty about ascertaining that.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No difficulty at all.

Hon. Mr. ROSS—I should like to know from the hon. leader of the House as to why they should not have a right to make a contract with the government, the only people who can make a contract to carry the mails.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I have no objection to that, but it looks rather absurd. I have not the slightest objection to that part of it, because there is only one person.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Order.

Hon. Mr. ROSS—I do not think these people want to build telegraph lines in the organized portions of the territory, but hon. gentlemen must understand that the larger portion of Alberta and Saskatchewan are unorganized. These people want to do business between their posts in the unorganized portions of the territory, but I am afraid if this proposed clause goes in it will deter them from working in that portion of the province of Alberta which is organized, and therefore these people will be barred entirely from carrying out their en-

terprise. They can have these telephone lines in Mackenzie. That is from Fort Simpson to the mouth of the Mackenzie river. As a matter of fact it was all termed unorganized until last fall. Last year Athabaska was cut in two, and part of it went to Saskatchewan and part to Alberta. That portion of the country we always called unorganized and that portion is not cut out in this Bill.

Hon. Mr. KERR (Toronto)—I do not suppose I can speak of what occurred in committee, but I was one of those who criticised and opposed some of the provisions of this Bill until the matter was thoroughly discussed. There was a great deal of information given there which the House is not in possession of, but I am at liberty to say that this business is carried on not merely in the city of Quebec where they have a warehouse and storehouse, not merely in the city of Montreal where they have one, but in the northern part of the province of Quebec, in parts which are most difficult of access, and where there is almost as much difficulty and trouble in communicating between one point and another as there would be on the northern part of the Mackenzie river, and this territory on the other hand cannot be said to be unorganized. The province of Ontario, in consequence of a railway pushing north towards Hudson bay, is now organizing as fast as they can township after township, and therefore it would be a difficult thing, many of these posts would be cut out if you were to say unorganized parts of the province even.

What has occurred to me therefore is, after considering all that was stated in the discussions in committee here, to give them an opportunity to carry on their business. I believe that this is a very meritorious scheme in many ways and that these people are doing a great work for the public that could not be done otherwise in those outlying places, and they need all the encouragement possible. I would suggest, and it would overcome the whole difficulty, if instead of undertaking to define the limitations as proposed here by saying 'in the unorganized territory,' if it was left in a discretionary way so it could be determined by order in council. They could show, here is a place where we would not interfere with other business of a legitimate kind, and an