

build, say from Telegraph Creek or any other such point, to tide water in British Columbia, if these contractors were willing to build that line of road; everything should be done to encourage Mackenzie and Mann to continue their line from Telegraph Creek to a harbour in British Columbia, where we shall be safe from all annoyance. The sixth clause of the bill contains this provision:

The tolls to be collected by the contractors or contractors' company upon the line of railway hereby contracted for between Stikine River and Teslin Lake shall be first fixed by the Governor General in Council.

That is a very important provision. It is to be supposed that the Governor in Council will see that the tolls are not unreasonable. Then the paragraph goes on:

And the tolls so fixed shall not be liable to reduction until the said railway has been in operation four years.

I do not think that is an excessive period, provided the tolls are fixed at reasonable figures in the first instance:

But such tolls shall be reduced by the Governor in Council by twenty-five per cent from and after such four years, and after the said railway has been in operation seven years they shall be reduced by twenty-five per cent off the tolls as previously reduced, but after the said railway has been ten years in operation the tolls shall be subject to the general railway laws of Canada in that behalf.

Then there is a provision that the contractors shall immediately construct the sleigh road, which I believe they are trying to do now to let people go in early this spring. The ninth paragraph says:

The contractors or the contractors' company shall provide or arrange with others to provide steamboat transport of freight and passengers between the terminus of said railway on Teslin Lake or other terminus northerly thereof and Dawson City to and fro.

Then the contractors have to deposit \$250,000. I shall not go into the provisions with respect to mining areas, because the Secretary of State on Friday went into the matter at considerable length and showed quite clearly that the contractors will have no opportunity to get a monopoly of the mining lands.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That is just what they have.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman says it is just what they have; but the agreement says that they have not. The agreement says they shall only have the alternate blocks.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—They can lay out their base lines on creeks and rivers.

Hon. Mr. POWER—They cannot twist their base lines.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—They do not wish them twisted.

Hon. Mr. POWER—They cannot get a monopoly. At any rate they get only 3,750,000 acres. They get only that out of about eighty millions, that is one-twentieth of all the land.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—If they got 500 acres it would be a large piece there.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman appears to leave out of sight another fact which is set out in paragraph 16:

Any and all mining claims actually held and recorded pursuant to government regulations by a free miner or free miners, and being within a block of land taken or selected by the contractors hereunder shall be excepted from the grant, and shall not pass to the contractors provided that such claims have been so actually held and recorded prior to the base line, along or with reference to which such block is taken being actually run and marked on the ground by the contractors.

This provision is of very great consequence. In the first place, a great many claims have been taken up already. The company cannot take up a single acre of land until they have completed ten miles of railway. That will certainly not be before the first of July of this year, I presume, and the free miners have up to that date the liberty to go and take up claims wherever they please. There is no restriction on them.

Hon. Mr. ALMON—May I ask the hon. gentleman what is the size of a miner's claim?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—About 250 feet.

Hon. Mr. POWER—About 250 feet each way, I think. There will be no restriction whatever upon all these free miners up to that time. As soon as the ten miles are completed the contractors will be able to take up 92,000 acres, and they are obliged to take up the whole of their land within a certain time after the first of October.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—In order to show what the value of these lands is