

ment having any control there. They could not reach the country. They were two thousand miles from it. They had no money to equip any force to preserve peace and order, and so it became absolutely necessary for the government of Canada to take action, as it did.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Will the hon. gentleman cite an instance in which the sovereignty of the Yukon district was disputed beyond the boundary dispute on the coast.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There has been all along a boundary dispute. That dispute goes back for twenty years and for twenty odd years the government of Canada has been endeavouring to get our neighbours to agree upon a definition of the boundaries. They have not even yet passed an act confirming the 141st meridian. There is no doubt it will have to be approved, because the United States officials have acceded to the belief that the line, as run by Mr. King and those associated with him, in the true line, although they did not exactly agree. However, it has not yet been agreed to by Congress. Then, so far as the fringe of country that runs southward is concerned, that stands in the position it stood in so far back as the year 1825. No progress has been made. Looking at a United States map of that part of the country, you will find it claims 35 miles into the interior beyond where we claim the boundary should lie. Does the hon. gentleman think that the government should have leaned on their oars and waited until parliament met and passed a bill without taking any action to maintain our rights in that country.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That question is not involved in what we are discussing.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman disputed our right to do it.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend says that for twenty years the dispute has remained the same as it is to-day, yet in the next breath the hon. gentleman raises the cry of urgency by reason of United States pretensions of sovereignty.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman loses the whole point. Three years ago it did not involve any important question—no-

body thought anything of the Yukon country then.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—We must be obliged to the hon. Secretary of State for the extreme lucidity of his explanation. The leader of the opposition asked if instructions were given to Major Walsh and what those instructions are, and my hon. friend informs him that the sovereignty of this country has been called in question, and that Major Walsh was sent there. He clothed those two ideas with a great many words, but that is the statement. He tells us that the sovereignty of Canada has been called in question for twenty years and therefore Major Walsh was sent there. What answer has he given to the question as to whether Major Walsh received written instructions. That is what we want to know, and whether they will be brought down as the leader of the House said they would be. In reply to these very simple and easy questions, my hon. friend, the Secretary of State, treats the House to a long history as to the sovereignty of the country being called in question for some twenty years.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I should like to know what my hon. friend wants. I told him that Major Walsh went up into that country in connection with the mounted police for the purpose of maintaining law and order, not for the purpose of organizing an independent government there, but for the purpose of carrying on the executive government with which His Excellency the Governor General is entrusted, under the advice of his ministers here, and we fully admit our responsibility for the manner in which that duty will be discharged. If we had undertaken to clothe Major Walsh with legislative authority, the hon. gentleman might very properly have asked us for further information, but if the hon. gentleman is not prepared to show that Major Walsh has violated the law, what is the object of moving for Major Walsh's instructions? I said to my hon. friend that as far as the public interest would permit, if he would put a notice on the paper I would see that the instructions given to Major Walsh or other papers would be brought down, and I repeat that. But my hon. friend has in fact not made out a case, and when my hon. friend from Calgary says that the government of the North-west Territories are entrusted with the govern-