

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—If I understood the hon. gentleman from Halifax, his object was to prevent the Hudson Bay Company at some future time from stepping into an unearned increment of value. If that can be prevented by taking precautions at the present time it would be a wise step. It also appears from some of the clauses of the Bill that the date when the surveys are to take place in whole or in part is not so remote as the Minister would lead us to believe, because we have already passed a clause in relation to the sale and leasing of lots. If there is a lease or sale, of course there must be a survey, and as soon as there is a survey the Hudson Bay Company will step in with their claims. If the Hudson Bay Company could be induced to accept terms now, before the value of the place is established, it would be much better than to leave the question open.

HON. MR. DEVER—It would be unwise on the part of the Government to lay out money until the property is surveyed. I do not see that we have any right to spend our money on a piece of ground that is in dispute; if the Hudson Bay Company have a right to any portion of this land they must get it, but they should have it in its primitive state. They certainly should not have it after we lay out large sums of money on it in the way of improvements, and I would suggest that the Government should have the land surveyed and bring the question up at once as to whether the Hudson Bay Company have any legal title to it or not. This land will become national property and it will be known all over the world, and it will be a very difficult matter to settle with the Company in future. Therefore, I think it is advisable that something should be done to remove any possible claim before a considerable amount of money is expended upon the property.

HON. MR. GOWAN—If the Bill passed in its present shape it might bear the construction that the Parliament of Canada were disposed to interfere with the rights vested in the Hudson Bay Company, which would not

be a desirable view to present to the public. Therefore it might possibly interfere with the permanence of the Act because if it represented on its face that it interfered with the rights of the Hudson Bay Company it would probably be disallowed. I cannot conceive of language more accurate or more clear than the clause before us. It guards the rights of the Company, (if any), and I cannot see how it is possible to use terms more explicit. I think the hon. gentleman from Halifax rather begs the question by saying that the Government are getting around this contract by a side wind, inasmuch as he presupposes it is the duty of the Government to act at once in the way of surveying land. Once he assumes that and begs the question, thinking the Government are bound to make the survey, the force of his remarks is greatly weakened.

The amendment was agreed to on a division.

HON. MR. PELLETIER, from the Committee, reported the Bill with amendments.

The amendments were concurred in, and the Bill was ordered for third reading to-morrow.

The Senate adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

## THE SENATE,

*Ottawa, Thursday, May 26th, 1887.*

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

## DEFENCES OF THE WESTERN COASTS OF THE DOMINION.

### INQUIRY.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B.C.) inquired

Has the Imperial Government promised to furnish guns or to assist in any way to-