

of Port Moody, than by consenting that the land which had been set apart for the purpose of the railway by the Government of British Columbia between Port Moody and Coal Harbor, should be given back to the Government.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B. C.)—I do not like to interrupt the hon. member—

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Then why do you do it?

HON. MR. MCINNES—Because I should like the leader of the House to say when they gave up the lands west of Port Moody, had they not had them in their possession for five years after they declared Port Moody to be the terminus, and after the contract was made to build the road? Why were they kept locked up to the great detriment of the country, if the Government did not own them? All this difficulty has arisen from the inaction and vacillating policy of the Government.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Although the hon. gentleman is so keenly interested in the matter, he does not understand it. We never had any land in our hands for the purpose of constructing this railway. We had a stipulation in the Act of the Legislature of British Columbia that they would retain and give to us in trust, for the purposes of this railway, a width of land extending twenty miles each side of the railway along its entire length; and wherever the length of the railway stops, there the grant of land stops, and there was no possibility of our refusing to give up land west of Port Moody. How could we? We had no right to the land except along the line of railway. The railway, so far as the contract is concerned, and so far as the Act of Parliament, and any compact with the company are concerned, stops at Port Moody, and we had no claim to land below that point, and as soon as the Government of British Columbia became satisfied that we were going to stop at Port Moody—that that was to be the terminus—they began a correspondence with us. They said—"If you have no right to the land west of Port Moody, you should abandon that,"—and after some correspondence that was

done. Now, the hon. gentleman says we ought not to have done that.

HON. MR. MCINNES—I will read the Act. It is as explicit as it is possible to be. It was passed in 1879, and it specifies that any shortage—that is if there was any land in the 20 mile belt line of railway which was alienated by pre-emption, homestead or otherwise—might be made up out of contiguous lands, and it is mentioned here, in a dozen different places, and I should like to know if the land west of Port Moody is not contiguous? What did the hon. gentleman do last year? Did he not take 3,500,000 acres of land not contiguous to the railway but in the Peace River country—

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—That is another speech. The hon. gentleman says if there was a "shortage alongside of the railway"—that very expression gives up the point and shows that I am right in the argument I am using, that we had no claim whatever to any land beyond the line of railway. It is manifest, if the hon. gentleman will only consider what was done in the North-West and Manitoba. A certain width of land, 20 miles on each side of the line, was given to the railway. The same thing was done with the line in British Columbia. Of course when you get to the end of the line of railway there is no more land. Suppose instead of going to Port Moody at all, we had gone to some other inlet, we would have had no claim to land at Port Moody. It is quite clear if you have a strip of land which should run from the Speaker's chair to the bar, and that was your line of railway, when you got to the bar you could have no claim to anything beyond it. So here you had a claim to a grant of land all along the railway until you got to Port Moody; there the railway stopped, and the grant of land stopped, and the suggestion which the hon. gentleman makes that there was was a provision for the granting of contiguous lands, or lands to meet the shortage, as he phrases it, applies to what we were entitled to, down to the terminus but not below the terminus. On what basis or pretence could we ask for land beyond the terminus? Why should they do anything more than grant us 20 miles on

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL.