

country are very great, and that even with the government behind the expedition, it is almost impossible to get in. There was no other way for him to go.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—He is not there yet.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—That is exactly what I want to come at, that some \$300,000 had been expended in conveying Major Walsh as far as he had got, without any public improvements of any kind or description. There have been stopping places and other things, but the whole cost has gone in transportation, \$300 a ton, for conveying things up the Chilkoot Pass. When that bill comes to be paid, you will find I am not outside of my estimate in saying that we have spent \$300,000 in order to convey Major Walsh into Dawson City, and that he is still camped at the mouth of Big Salmon River. He tried to send Mr. McGregor, the inspector of mines, a few miles further, but he has had to stop. That is the result of the efforts and expenditure of a very large sum of money indeed. The hon. gentleman says that that was the only way. I find fault entirely with the folly of trying to send a government by that route into that country at the time of the year it went in. If they thought it advisable and necessary to send it in, they ought to have sent it in by the Edmonton route. If they had sent it that way.

Hon. Mr. POWER—It would take six months to get through.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I will undertake to go in there in six weeks if you will give me a letter of credit on the Hudson Bay Company.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—An expedition was despatched consisting of mounted police and a surveyor. They left in September and we have not heard of their arrival there yet.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—If they had gone by the Mackenzie River they could have got there long ago.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They were told to select the best route they knew.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I am aware that the expedition got as far as the Liard. I am not prepared to say the mounted police

are the smartest men in the world to do things of that kind. The settlers in the country are more inured to the difficulties which their own individuality have to overcome. The mounted police are under discipline and under orders. They have to go under certain conditions. They are under discipline. This party started in there with eight or ten men and I have no doubt they are at Dawson to-day. It would not surprise me if they were not, but there are lots of people who have gone into that country inured to difficulties. I myself went into the part of the country where I settled 18 years ago and took my wife and children with me across the country 300 miles, across rivers and sloughs and without a bridge or any adjunct money can supply, and when numbers turned back in consequence of the difficulties. You can get lots of people in the North-west Territories who will undertake to deliver a letter in Dawson City inside of six weeks if you will only pay them. The Mounted Police however are obliged to act more deliberately they cannot take chances individuals can.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Perhaps by balloon.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—No, not by balloon. Half the way to Dawson City the route is through a good country for settlement. There are Hudson Bay posts and settlers all over it.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—From the Peace River district to Dawson City is about 1,100 miles?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I am aware of that, but there are lots of people there that do not mind travelling 1,100 miles. It is a big country. Near where I live, a man with a team and outfit started from Russell a week or two ago to go through Peace River, 1,400 miles, and he will get there inside of a couple of months. The Peace River district is an agricultural country, full of rich resources of all kinds, pastoral resources, grain resources, mineral resources and every thing that is required to sustain human life. We have in the Peace River district 3,000,000 acres of land that was transferred in exchange by the province of British Columbia because it was on the east side of the Rocky Mountains and not easily administered from the Pacific coast. It is an exceedingly fine agricultural district, I