

the disposal of the government to advertise for tenders.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—There was not.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—If these gentlemen had sufficient time to enter into treaty with the Rothschilds of London and refuse the overtures that were made and had time to discuss the various phases of the question as to whether this road should be built from the head of the Lynn Canal or from the head of navigation on the Stikine River to Teslin Lake then surely they had sufficient time to advertise for tenders on so important an undertaking.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Not at all.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Then all I can say is this government is a very much slower institution than I had thought. I understood this government, was a government of quick action, that it was going to show great alacrity in the administration of public affairs, that it would take advantage of time. But no; we find a public undertaking which last fall was known to be under way practically—at least it was well known that it would be placed under way—we had the Minister of the Interior going all the way to Skagway we had a discussion of the matter in the public press. I remember distinctly seeing an interview which took place between some members of the press and the Minister of Railways in regard to the building of the Teslin Lake road, in which he said emphatically that no aid or subsidy would be given to any company, that the bare franchise was a sufficient compensation to give to any company. That was many months ago and yet notwithstanding the flight of time we find no advantage taken of it. Notwithstanding the pressure of this enterprise, notwithstanding the starvation which my friend the Secretary of State so pathetically dwelt upon yesterday, the starvation of those poor mortals in Dawson City, notwithstanding these facts, we find those gentlemen falling into a state of desuetude, so to speak, upon this important subject, and not doing anything until a few days before the meeting of parliament. Now, then, this cry of no time and this cry of urgency is not sufficient to justify the government in the position they occupy upon this all important question. No such defence as this will justify an

absolute violation of well established practice and of the pledges and promises which those gentlemen have made from time to time when in opposition. If there was no time to advertise for those tenders there might have been time for those gentlemen to have brought some information to the House as to the merits, if any, of this particular road. We certainly should have been seized with some information as to the feasibility of the route, the navigation of the water route and as to the probable cost of constructing such a road, but there is not a word about it, but on the contrary these gentlemen seem to think that the very absence of information and the plea of urgency justify them in the course which they have taken.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The hon. gentleman seems to forget that we are not discussing this Yukon bill. We are discussing the Governor General's speech.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—We are discussing a paragraph in it.

Hon. Mr. POWER—But the hon. gentleman complains that all sorts of information is not on the Table of the House. When the bill comes to be discussed I presume the government will make the House seized of all the information they have, but it is unusual to expect that, before the bill is submitted to us.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—To answer my hon. friend from Halifax, I have simply taken the statement of his leaders in this House that they have no information to give. Because my hon. friend said when he proceeded to enter into a defence of the government for entering into the contract he had two reasons to give why he could not give sufficient information to satisfy the members. One was there was so much urgency there could be no information given.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend said there was so much urgency for the building of this road that it was impossible to get information in time regarding all the facts which they would otherwise have obtained.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—My hon. friend has been for years supporting propositions to build railways. The Canadian Pacific Railway was one that was made without advertising for tenders, a private arrangement to