

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B. C.)—In fact 500 acres of that country would be a vast thing. This company have the power to lay out their own base lines and select their own land grant on the banks of the rivers. There is no restriction placed on them.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Every line must be 24 miles in length.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Then, again, who is to administer that country? Who is to preserve law and order in this vast territory where the company have sovereignty and royalty? They are actually kings of that country. The royalty in the minerals and the lordship of the ground. In British Columbia if we sell a farm, anybody can go in and take up mines on it and you cannot mine on your own farm without taking out a license. Why is this rich country thrown away without any restriction in the public interest? Suppose to-morrow this company select so many thousand acres and after the selection is made, four or five hundred miners go in and are found working there, are the company going to turn these men out? It is impossible? It would take all the mounted police of the country to do so. They will not give up their mines if they are worth holding. There is great danger of conflicts as well as throwing away our heritage. If the land were safeguarded to the public I would not mind—if the company were bound to sell this land at the same price as contiguous government land; if miners were allowed to take up mines on the same terms as the government give, and a royalty were exacted, by the contractors, would not a royalty pay them in addition to the tolls on passengers and freight carried by the railway? If the government advertised to give the freight rates and tolls on that road to the company building it, I believe it would be built free of money or land. There will be enormous traffic on the line, which will recompense the company for building it. But, if in addition to that, the contractors could collect a royalty, and pay the government a portion for administering the country and preserving law and order, it would be a splendid bargain.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Supposing 100,000 people go into that territory during the coming season, does the hon. gentleman say it is of no consequence to have immediate communication?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—At a meeting in Victoria the other day, the people said that we would sooner lose all our trade and prospects than allow ourselves to be trampled on in this way by the United States government. What the government can do is this, they can stop all traffic at the Canadian boundary. If the United States authorities meet us with hostile regulations on the sea coast, we can do the same on our frontier.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Supposing the Americans were going in by Dyea and Skagway, how can you stop them at the boundary?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—They could be stopped, surely.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—You would require to have some one there to do it.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—It would become an international question then. If Canada cannot carry out her own laws and regulations, she had better give up the country.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—My hon. friend makes a proposition which would practically have the effect of giving up the territory to adventurers from San Francisco and Seattle.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—What has that to do with the improvidence of this bargain?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I think I have said enough to show that I am entirely opposed to giving this land grant and, as I say, I do not mind that if it is safeguarded. About the monopoly clause, I am opposed to that also, but I would favour giving the company control of a zone of 10 miles on each side of its line for its full length, within which no railway should be built by any other company for five years. I would allow other railways to intersect it, but that is all. But to prevent, as the contract does, the building of any other railway in there for ten years together, I say it is monstrous. I read it that way. I have only glanced at the contract in a very cursory manner. The leader of the opposition had it here, and I was not able to read it carefully but that is what I understand by it. At all events, to the principle of monopoly, this House I think, will be strongly opposed. I have an alternative scheme for the