

its part, and the dominion Government is now carrying out its part by ratifying the boundary line.

Honourable senators, I am not moving that this bill go to committee, because no change can be made in it; its provisions have been agreed upon as to form both by Alberta and the dominion Government. As I have intimated, it does not deal with a very serious matter, but the passing of the bill will clear up the boundary line of the northern part of Alberta with reference to the Northwest Territories. I therefore move second reading of the bill.

Hon. Thomas Reid: Honourable senators, I am not rising to object, but merely to say that I am very much impressed by this bill. Years ago, after the 49th parallel was run, it was discovered that the United States had cut half a mile inside the boundary of British Columbia. When I learned that, I dug into the record and found that by order in council it was agreed that the line set by the surveyors, one half mile in from Blaine, in British Columbia territory, should have been at the 49th parallel. What surprised me more than anything else was that the correction was made by order in council, and not by Parliament. The reason I looked into the matter was that I thought that in return for the half-mile of land we lost to the United States I could get a *quid pro quo*, and that if they would give us back a little strip of waterfront they could call the half-mile their own. It is interesting to know that the correction will now be made by statute.

Hon. Mr. Wall: Honourable senators, may I be permitted a question? The bill suggests that the constitutional consent of the Legislature of the province of Alberta has been granted to the boundary line, which is now the subject of discussion, but nothing is said about the constitutional competency of the Council of the Northwest Territories. Is there anything missing?

Hon. Mr. Haig: The land of the Northwest Territories is under the control of the Parliament of Canada. A sort of nominal council governs, as in the earlier days of Canada. The council consists of five officials appointed by the Government and three elected by the people. That country is under the control of the Dominion Government.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Haig: I move that this bill be placed on the Order Paper for third reading on Tuesday next.

The motion was agreed to.

TERRITORIAL LANDS BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. John T. Haig moved the second reading of Bill L, to amend the Territorial Lands Act.

He said: Honourable senators, I am a bit ashamed with the explanation I have to offer with respect to this bill. It simply provides that the land under territorial waters belongs to the Government of Canada. That is all the bill says.

Hon. Mr. Howard: The land always has belonged to Canada.

Hon. Mr. Euler: To whom else could it belong, the provinces?

Hon. Mr. Haig: There is a question as to whether the land under Hudson Bay, for instance, belongs to the Province of Quebec to the east, the Province of Ontario to the south or the Province of Manitoba to the west. The explanatory note to the bill reads:

The purpose of this amendment is to broaden the definition of "territorial lands" to include all lands under territorial waters over which Canada has jurisdiction. It will now be possible to grant applications for mineral rights on lands under territorial waters.

Hon. Mr. Euler: What if the provinces object to this bill?

Hon. Mr. Haig: I propose to move at the appropriate time that the bill be sent to a committee. If the provinces object they can be heard there.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: Under this bill the prospectors will have to be skin divers.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Would the honourable leader explain, if he feels it is possible to do so, how the passage of this legislation will affect the problem. The jurisdiction over the land of Canada was determined by the British North America Act; that act laid down the jurisdiction of this Parliament and that of the provinces. Will my honourable friend tell me, therefore, how Parliament can change the provisions of the British North America Act by the passage of this bill?

Hon. Mr. Haig: I do not intend to argue the point with my honourable friend, because I do not know the answer. I propose to send the bill to a committee and let the experts answer his question.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.