

may say that after this Mr. Gilman, second vice-president of the Great Northern, and Mr. A. H. MacNeill, K.C., their solicitor, agreed with this opinion, and we also had Mr. Hay, the city solicitor in Vancouver, in a public utterance saying that the government could not have done other than they did when they refused assent to this agreement under the False Creek Act.

"When the railway company found they could not expropriate these lots in this way, they proceeded to file a new plan under the Railway Act, so that where they could not lay outright their interests, they could expropriate. This is what they should have done in the first place, rather than to make an illegal use of certain sections of the False Creek Act. The city followed this up by asking the Dominion Government to rectify their grants. When the matter came before the Dominion Government it took a very short time for them to rectify the grant. Notwithstanding the section in the original grant against alienation, with a stroke of the pen they wiped out the old thing, and gave to the V. V. & E. Railway Company this 130 acres of the bed of False Creek. They had told this government and they had told me that we must rectify this grant, and though Ottawa had no such popular pressure brought upon them as we had, by some political influence they rectified it at once, and gave away the whole bed of False Creek. But we are not doing things in this way. We are still keeping the 120 acres in False Creek, knowing that they cannot alienate it except on a lease of forty years. Those who stood behind the plan stated that because the Dominion Government had done this, the V. V. & E. would not come to this government at all, and operation within thirty days. Since this statement was made by these prophetic politicians, there have been many thirty days elapsed, but nothing has been done, and we have had the V. V. & E. come here and negotiate with the government as we have always taken the ground that the Dominion Government did not own the bed of the creek at all. We took the ground that unless before Confederation it had been used for harbor purposes, that the flukes of ships' anchors had been cast there and goods landed on the foreshore, they had no control, and that if this condition

had not existed prior to 1871, this government alone was competent to deal with this question. Therefore, the men who are handling this agreement for the V. V. & E. instead of proceeding as these reckless politicians said they would under the Dominion Government grant, have not done a bit of reclamation work, but have come to this government to have the agreement rectified. I have shown you plainly that this government felt that they had something to rectify, and without its rectification the V. V. & E. would not spend a single dollar under its agreement with the city. In this connection we have dealt with many of the officials of the company, leading men with whom we have had no trouble. When they found that this government was standing on its rights, they felt that they were dealing with business men, rather than with politicians, who were willing to give away the rights of the city. (Applause).

People's Interests Looked After.

"As a consequence we have in this bill a modification of that agreement. We had against us the fact that the V. V. & E. had already spent \$2,000,000 in purchasing land; we had the vote of the people who had become disgusted with conditions, and passed the bylaw by a large majority; then we had this action of the Dominion Government which had given away the whole bed of False Creek, instead of reserving it as a valuable asset to the city. But this government stood up for the people's interests, and determined to protect them from the provisions of this bill, and the officials who had made such an imprudent bargain, and so we have today in the schedules of this act an agreement which greatly improves the original agreement with regard to False Creek.

"I will detain you for a few minutes while I show the difference between the agreement entered into with the city and the agreement entered into with the Crown as represented by the Government of British Columbia. In the first place the railway company absolutely covenants within five years to spend half a million dollars in building a union station. It may be claimed by some that this was in the original agreement, but I have only to read the original agreement to show you that this is not so. In the first place,