territory which they take, is 31,680 feet finding these rich ledges as the men who wide, and the soil in which they have a chance of finding gold is only an average of 300 feet. They, therefore, have a chance of getting territory 300 feet wide out of 31,680 feet. That is the way in which they must select their land, and that is the amount of territory which they have any chance of finding gold in. Now, their total grant is 3,750,000 acres, and the possible territory in which they can find anything-I am not speaking of quartz ledges now, for 1 will discuss that later on—is the one-onehundred-and-fifth part of that. Out of their grant of 3,750,000 acres, they have 35,714 acres in which they have a possible chance of finding anything; not a certainty, remember-nothing more than a mere probability. Does anybody imagine that you can walk up and down the water courses and find gold in paying quantities in all of You can find the colour of gold : them ? you can find that all over the North-west. in places where it does not pay at all. But these gentlemen have a possible chance of finding something that pays in 35,714 acres out of the 3,750,000 acres-equal to a piece of territory less than ten miles by six miles in extent. That is the effect of the method of selection which we have provided that these gentlemen must adopt.

Now, as to the rich lodes and ledges which my hon. friend writes about. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) is, I understand, the president or the manager of a gold mining company. I am told that the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) is also the president of a gold mining company. I can take either of these gentlemen to as rich a mining district as there is in the world, the Slocan district, in the neighbourhood of the town of Sandon, and if they will talk there, as I have done, to experienced mining men -for instance, to Mr. Macdonald, one of the owners of the Payne mine, which pays a dividend of \$85,000 a month-they will find that these men of experience will tell them that there is no doubt whatever that in the neighbourhood of Sandon there are many ledges as rich as those which are exposed. Why does not my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition or my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance get a few of them ? Why does not everybody who wants to get rich in a short time get a few of Because the experience of every them ? mining country in the world is that it costs a great deal more in the aggregate to develop these ledges than they are worth. Yet by what process of reasoning do hon. gentlemen apply to the men who are getting this land grant a rule that applies to no other mining country in the world ? If they find rich ledges, they will find them only after they have won them by spending their time and money; and anybody else in the world, under our present mining regulations, has just as good a chance of going there and

Why, I say, are building this railway. apply a different rule to this company from what has been applied to other companies? The hon, leader of the Opposition the other night made a statement which is perfectly true; he made it inadvertently; he did not intend to make it, and he tried to correct it after he did make it; but it is true just the same : that it costs more to take the gold out than the gold is worth after it is taken out.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If my hon. friend will allow me to tell him he has no foundation whatever for saying that I attempted in any way to qualify or withdraw that statement. I did make it, and I made it without the slightest qualification.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. gathered that from the hon. gentleman's remarks. If he did not so intend, my inference is not correct. But he made the statement, and I say the statement is true; and I think I can prove it so far as the placer districts of Cassiar and Cariboo in British Columbia are concerned, which are in every respect the same in nature and in kind as the Klondike district. I have here a table which shows that in these districts from 1858 to 1880 inclusive, there was taken out \$45,-140,889 in gold, which the House will agree with me was a very respectable production. Now, analyse the figures for a few minutes. I find that during that time the highest amount that was taken out in any one \$1,222 year, on the average, was per \$403 man, and the lowest was per man ; we all know and that even the highest amount did not represent the wages and living expenses of the men who were working in those mines or anything like them. If you look down the table you will find these figures : for 1858, \$173 per man; for 1859, \$403; for 1860, \$506; for 1861, \$634; for 1862, \$517; for 1863. \$482; for 1864, \$849; for 1865. \$813; for 1866, \$\$93; for 1867, \$\$14; and so on till it goes down to \$518. This is the average amount of gold taken out per man per annum for the whole mining population and every member of this House knows that these figures do not at all represent the wages and expenses of the men actu ally engaged in mining operations in those districts. Now, what I want to know is by what process of reasoning is it argued that the same rule will not apply to the members of this company when they go the work to mine their railway land grant, There is no possible analogy which can b drawn from any mining operation in th world which will not lead to the inevitabl conclusion that if these gentlemen send ou a large number of prospectors and under take to work their land grant for place mining, they will spend more money that they will ever get out of the land gran I want to say on that point that I think the

Hon C S-3