

this more positively than I am. But I think I am safe in saying that it is intended that the Ottawa Improvement Commission shall devote this money to the further improvement of Major's Hill Park right down to Nepean Point. The reason it is given to the Ottawa Improvement Commission is that that commission, composed of public-spirited citizens of Ottawa, have been devoting a great deal of their time and attention to the beautifying of the city, and this is just the kind of work that ought to be done by the proceeds of this sale. I do not think it would be proper that we should let this money go into the consolidated revenue. As we are selling, for the purposes of this hotel, a portion of a park to which the public have resorted for a great many years, I think it is only right that the money should be used for the purpose of beautifying that park, and I know of nobody under whose direction it can be better expended than the Ottawa Improvement Commission.

Mr. LENNOX. These are ordnance lands.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Mr. LENNOX. We have a statute which provides that ordnance lands shall be divided into two classes and shall be dealt with in a special way. These particular lands would come under class 2 and the statute says that unless they are handed over for provincial purposes these lands shall be sold by auction. I admit it would be practically impossible to sell them by auction because it could never have been sold at all, but I venture to say that if this land had been put up at auction it would have realized a far larger sum than has been obtained for it from the Grand Trunk Railway.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Surely my hon. friend must be mistaken. This land has only a frontage of 135 feet on Rideau street. My hon. friend must know that \$100,000 is a good price for that quantity of land, and if it were put up to auction I doubt if it would realize that much.

Mr. LENNOX. I fully believe that with the easements and advantages that will be given, it is worth far more money as an hotel site by reason of its unlimited connection with the park.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is \$800 a foot frontage.

Mr. LENNOX. I do not care if it is \$800,000, that is not the point I am dealing with. I venture to say that for an hotel site that property is worth five times as much as you are getting for it.

Mr. PUGSLEY. What do you base that on?

Mr. LENNOX. On the fact that you are not only selling that little patch of land,

but that you are practically giving the company the use of a large park which is the most beautiful in the city of Ottawa. It is idle to talk of \$100,000 for so many feet of land under the circumstances. I get angry when I talk about this; I get so indignant at this proposal that I find it hard to keep my temper. But if we are going to dispose of this property I would point out that there are special provisions which have to be met before we sell ordnance land and not only that but there are special provisions in the statute as to the disposal of the money. The statute now says that moneys arising from the sale of ordnance land shall form part of the consolidated revenue of Canada and a separate account shall be kept thereof.

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is why the legislation is necessary.

Mr. LENNOX. I know that. When the statute says it is to be kept in a separate fund and as a separate account there is good reason why we should preserve that money in a separate account. But the question of what price we get for this land is comparatively trifling as compared with the disastrous scheme of selling the land at all. I presume this means that the conveyance shall be signed concurrently and that the minister will see that is done.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The plans are to be approved.

Mr. LENNOX. I do hope that when this outrage is consummated it shall be nullified as far as possible by making some provision to protect the people's rights in the balance of the park.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The people's rights can be in no way interfered with.

Mr. LENNOX. The people's rights could be interfered with if there is not a fence placed between the hotel property and the park. I have enough experience of this government to believe that there may be easements granted to that company which would be inconsistent with the rights and interests of the public, and I want to warn the minister now that we will expect that the people's rights in that respect shall be safeguarded. The minister does not appear to have gone very deeply into this question, but I would like to know from him what about the rights we have secured as regards exemption from taxation for Major's Hill park and the free supply of water and things of that kind. Will the company stand in the same position as the government in that regard? Will they get free water from the city for that hotel?

Mr. PUGSLEY. There is nothing in the agreement which will give any exemption to the Ottawa Terminal Company in respect to the hotel. They will have to pay

Mr. PUGSLEY.