

came out in the discussion within the last few days that these gentlemen must have some information, indefinite as it may be, that there were others who offered to carry out a contract, and that there were others who were prepared to say what they would do based upon accurate information of some kind. We find it reported in to-day's *Citizen* that the representatives of the Rothschilds made a proposition to the government to build a particular road.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—No, they did not: it is not correct.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Not on that line—another line.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I do not refer to this particular line, but to a line going into the Yukon country.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Under the control of the United States.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—No more than the other.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Yes.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend has made a reference to a point with which I desire to deal. It would appear evident that others than the present contractors had been in treaty with the government for the building of this road. It would appear that those other parties made a proposition very much more reasonable than the contractors to whom the contract has been given, so much so as to justify the government in further dealing with them, in making further efforts with them to carry out the line in question.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—You are entirely wrong. There was really no other proposition. There were informal discussions with the members of the government, but no company, or responsible party ever put on record a proposition that could be considered.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Do I understand from my hon. friend that it was impossible to get other responsible parties to tender?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There were several who discussed it informally, but would not touch it under any reasonable conditions. The gentleman who represented himself to

be the agent of the Rothschilds—I do not know whether he is or not—was opposed to this route altogether. He said he would be willing, although he made no proposition, to build a line from the head of the Lynn Canal on much more favourable terms; so would Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann; but we said: We cannot entertain any such proposition.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—These men, no doubt, would have built the road for less, beginning at the head of Lynn Canal, which is not under our control or jurisdiction, and which might be closed against us any day; and so far as this road was concerned the party claiming to act on behalf of Rothschilds did contemplate making the government an offer. The government postponed the consideration of the question to give him an opportunity of making an offer, and ultimately he came to the government and said his friends in London were not ready to go on.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—Then the government did not receive any offer to build this road for 5,000 acres?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Not for this road. There may have been a discussion with some members of the government, but there was no offer made to us: they might just as well have proposed to construct the whole road on the United States boundary as to construct the road under the existing circumstances. This was the only road open to us. The government decided that this road from the head of navigation in the Stikine River into the country was the only one they could undertake to construct, because it was the only route they had at the present time the control of. We were prepared to receive offers from those who represented wealthy institutions in England, but when they communicated with the capitalists in England they would not have anything to do with their arrangement, and after we had delayed entering into any contract for the purpose of constructing a road to give them an opportunity, they came to us in the end and said they had failed.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Let me say this that what has fallen from the lips of the leader of the House proves most conclusively to my mind that ample time was at