

Saskatchewan. If these are to be considered unorganized territories because they have no municipalities, then I think it should be entirely satisfactory to the company.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I call the attention of the mover of the Bill to the amendment which was made in committee which strikes out clause 12. That clause deals with the capital of the company. Why is that clause struck out?

Hon. Mr. COFFEY—I do not know.

Hon. Mr. KERR (Toronto)—It was struck out because this company is already incorporated, and the amount of capital is stated in its charter. It was, therefore, unnecessary to state it in the Bill. On the other hand, it relieved us of the necessity of enacting a declaratory clause. The company were quite willing that it should go because their charter already fixed the amount of the capital.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I would also call attention to the first clause, which deals with carrying letters. It is possible to carry letters all over the country by messengers if they wish to do so, and I do not see any necessity for this first clause. If they are operating in unorganized territory they can send their mail by private messengers and carriers without a contract with anybody. I fully agree with the striking out of clause 9, but I do not know whether clause 10 should be struck out also.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I did not propose to strike out clause 9; I merely limit it to unorganized territory.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I suppose there are very few gentlemen in the Senate who are directly interested in this Bill. Speaking for myself, I am not, but it seems to me that the hon. Secretary of State has not considered what is covered by the term 'unorganized territories.' If you put in those words they destroy to a very great extent the operations of this company. The hon. gentleman shakes his head. Are there not portions of the unorganized territories in which the government has no means of sending money or goods and that do not come within the purview of this Bill? Are there not portions of the country in the Northwest that are organized but which are

not settled, and in which this company has its posts, and has had them for a great number of years? The hon. gentleman said a few minutes ago that had the statement which he made been brought before the House of Commons he is quite sure that the Bill would never have passed. I am assured that this Bill was submitted to the Minister of Railways and Canals, to the Minister of Justice and to the Finance Minister, all of whom concurred in its provisions. Have the government no policy in a matter of this kind? I am making this statement on the authority of a gentleman who is promoting the Bill.

Hon. Mr. POWER—These statements are decidedly ex-parte.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not understand how the hon. gentleman makes them ex-parte. I am replying to the statement made by the representative of the government in this House, that had the facts been submitted to the House of Commons the Bill would not have passed. My reply to that is that I am informed that this Bill was submitted to three members of the cabinet, who would be and are particularly interested in its provisions, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Railways and Canals and the Minister of Finance. They have been misrepresented or the statement made by the hon. Secretary of State can have no force. Take the first clause to which my hon. friend objects. This company exists at the present time, and has its posts in the organized and in the unorganized territory and, as I learn, has been carrying on business of all kinds since some time in the seventeenth century. They have been in the habit of accommodating the people in many of those parts of the country in the manner indicated in the Bill. All they ask is that they shall have power to enter into an arrangement with the government to carry the mail. Is there any particular harm in that? The hon. gentleman says they can only enter into an agreement to carry the mail with one party, and that is the government. The government need never give them the authority to carry the mails unless they like. As I understand it, they now carry parcels from one post to another, and as people have begun to settle in that part of the country, for agricultural or other purposes, they accommodate