

or by any other company. What is wanted, is to have this road built and to get these immense coal deposits within access of the gold and silver mining districts, and thus to develop the immense mineral wealth of British Columbia. As I have said, it is amusing to me to see the tremendous interest that the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Martin) has taken in British Columbia matters lately. I may tell him that there are six members from British Columbia, every one of whom is perfectly capable of taking his own part, and of promoting the interests of his district and of his province. Not only that, Sir, but I think I can prove beyond all doubt by documentary evidence, that these hon. gentlemen have looked after the interests of their province in the past, and are perfectly willing and able to do so in the future.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would like to inquire of the hon. gentleman who are the proprietors of these same coal fields? Do they belong to the government of British Columbia or the Government of Canada, or to private individuals?

Mr. PRIOR. There are about 11,000 acres of coal lands in that district, the fee simple of which is owned by a company in Victoria. The rest belongs at present to the British Columbia government. The British Columbia Southern Railway Company got a charter from the government and a large land grant, which includes all these coal lands if they build the road.

Mr. McMULLEN. I am sure the remarks which have dropped from the hon. gentleman with regard to the prospects of that country have been quite interesting to the House. But I was disappointed at the introductory portion of his address. It is surely not to be understood that the members of this House are only to look after matters concerning their own constituency or their own province. Are we to be rebuked for taking an interest in other portions of this Dominion? Are the members of this House to be told that when they advocate the interests of another province than their own, they are interfering with the duties of the members from that province?

Mr. PRIOR. Not at all.

Mr. McMULLEN. I was surprised at the hon. gentleman's introductory remarks, but I was still more surprised at his closing remarks. I think my hon. friend from Winnipeg deserves a good deal of credit for the interest he has taken in this matter. But the hon. Minister says that there are six men in this House representing British Columbia, and that they are able to take care of the interests of that province themselves. That is a very peculiar position for a Minister of the Crown or any other member of this House to take. We are here to advocate the interests of the entire Dominion.

Mr. PRIOR.

Every member of this House, if he discharges his duties properly, will take an interest in every province, and it is not becoming in a Minister of the Crown to tell an hon. gentleman who gets up to discharge what he believes to be his duty, that he is intermeddling in a matter that concerns only the six members who come from that province.

Mr. BARNARD. I think the hon. member for North Wellington quite misunderstands the remarks of the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister did not rebuke the hon. member for Winnipeg for taking an interest in British Columbia matters. He merely remarked that it was strange that immediately before a general election all this interest should be displayed. I may inform the hon. gentleman that during the last six or seven years that I have sat in this House, few members of the Opposition have shown any interest in British Columbia; and it is strange that now, immediately before a general election, so much interest should be shown by these hon. gentlemen in that province. We are all glad, however, to find them taking so much interest even now in the development of the resources of British Columbia. At the same time, I do not think the Minister is entitled to receive the strictures of the hon. member for North Wellington.

Mr. PRIOR. I do not know any hon. gentleman who can get up a show of indignation in a short time better than the hon. member for North Wellington.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member is out of order in speaking a second time on the question before the House.

Mr. MARA. Mr. Speaker, I was very much pleased at the hon. member for Winnipeg evincing so much interest in this railway; but I was astonished to find the hon. member for North Wellington also taking an interest in it. When the question of granting a subsidy to this railway was before the House, the hon. member for Winnipeg was silent; but there was not a more bitter opponent of that subsidy than the hon. member for North Wellington, unless it was the hon. member for South Oxford. Now, in listening this evening to the expressions of liberality and charity from those two hon. gentlemen, I could not but feel that it would be a grand thing for British Columbia if the same feeling of charity and liberality permeated the whole of the Opposition. In view of the remarks made by the hon. member for Winnipeg, it might not be out of place for me to read a few of the remarks made by the hon. member for South Oxford when the question of granting a subsidy to this railway was before the House. That hon. gentleman stated:

But we do not own a scrap of this coal. Let the people who own it develop it. Why should