

country without their paying to the Government a sixpence of rental of any kind whatever. It seems to me we have adopted a wiser principle in dealing with ranches. (Cheers.) The hon. gentleman tells us that we are.

GIVING COAL AREAS TO PEOPLE,

but he did not name the people who had got the coal areas. He made the extraordinary statement that the result of our policy was to make fuel dearer to the people of the Northwest. Why, the hon. gentleman has never been in the Northwest, I believe? The hon. gentleman who seconds his motion has been there, and has made considerable profit out of the Northwest. He was one of those land speculators, one of those men who, at the moment when a system was adopted by which land was given at \$1 an acre with a payment of ten cents down, rushed in and took some 60,000 acres of land which he holds now, and which makes him a millionaire, and makes him better able to carry his election the next time on the same principle on which he has carried his elections in the past. But the hon. gentleman who moved this motion, I suppose, has never been in the Northwest, and he did not know, therefore, much about the question of fuel. I believe I am right in saying that the result of opening up those coal areas under the policy adopted by the Government has been to reduce the price of coal in Winnipeg from \$17 to \$7 a ton. (Cheers.) Therefore, if it be true that we have given these coal areas, even if it be to friends, we have at least the satisfaction of knowing that we have made fuel cheaper to the settlers of the Northwest, that we had, in fact, reduced the price considerably more than one-half, because, as you go further west and get nearer the coal areas, you will find that the price now is, I have no hesitation in saying, at least one-third what it was before. (Cheers.) Now, with regard to these coal areas, we have adopted precisely the same policy as that adopted by the United States; and I confess I was rather astonished when, in the one particular in which we have slavishly followed the American system, after the hon. gentleman has been parading the American system, has been calling upon us every session to take a leaf out of the book of our friends on the other side of

the border, yet, when we have done it in this particular case, still the hon. gentleman is not pleased, still he thinks we should have adopted some other plan. He says we ought to offer these to public competition. Why, sir, how could we offer them to public competition? Coal underlies the whole Northwest, and you can hardly tell where it may not be found. The policy we adopted is, that where there is a coal area we fix the price, as they do in the United States under similar conditions, at \$10 an acre, or, if it be anthracite coal, such as is found in the mountains, where the price was formerly \$20 an acre, we have reduced it down to \$12.50, upon the representation of the Inspector of Mines, that the cost of mining was so great that it was better to reduce it to \$12.50 in order to ensure the development of the anthracite mines to be found in the mountains. Now, any one can go in and get a coal area if he knows where to select it. He comes to the department and pays his \$10 an acre, and then he can go back and open the seam and supply the people with coal, and so ensure cheap fuel for the people of the Northwest. Then again, with regard to

THIS MATTER OF GRAZING LANDS,

the hon. gentleman has been dealing considerably with the question of members of Parliament being interested in this matter. If I may refer to a previous debate which took place last night—although I know it is not in order—a member of this house was attacked because he had ranches in Texas. But what is he to do? If he had taken a ranche in Canada and put his cattle upon it in exactly the same way, he would have been attacked just the same, because it would then have been said that he was a mere pensioner upon the Government and could not therefore give an independent vote. When he goes to Texas he is attacked because he has gone away from the country and established a ranche in a foreign country. Now, sir, as to

THIS QUESTION OF COMPETITION;

the hon. gentleman has referred to an alleged fact—although it is not a fact—that some of these timber limits were sold by their holders at enormous prices to outside people. Now, there is not one of these outside people who could not have applied