

ditional clause to this effect: "Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the obligation of the Government (if any) arising out of the conditions of the acquisition of the North-West Territories."

HON. MR. POWER—That looks very reasonable and proper, but I have grave doubt about the wisdom of inserting it here, because after listening to the explanation given by the Leader of the House a moment ago, I am not satisfied that this provision is not capable of being abused. The Minister said a moment ago that the right of the Hudson Bay Company (if any) would not accrue until the Government had ordered surveys of this park to be made.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Until the surveys are made.

HON. MR. POWER—As I understand it, the Hudson Bay Company would then be in a better position probably to claim that they were entitled to a portion of the property as it stood at the time the survey was made, with the improvements which the Government might put upon it between this and the time of making that survey. I doubt very much the wisdom of being so very careful of the interests of the Hudson Bay Company in this instance. It would be wise to adopt a provision that if the Company have any interest in this park the Government would furnish them with lands somewhere else equivalent in value to these lands in their natural state.

HON. MR. DEVER—Perhaps they would not accept them.

HON. MR. POWER—I am afraid there is a door open here for future difficulty. The public in dealing with these big corporations is always sure to suffer. We had an example of that not very long ago. It will be remembered by some hon. gentlemen that when the question of damages in the North-West was under consideration in this House, I called the attention of the leader of the Government to the fact that the Hudson Bay Company's claim for damages sustained in the North-West

should not be listened to by the Government, on the ground that the Company had made a great deal more money out of the rebellion than they had suffered loss, as was shown by the fact that their stock had gone up very rapidly as a consequence of the difficulty in the North-West. The leader of the House at that time assured us that the Hudson Bay Company were not making any claim and were not going to make any claim, and that the alarm was groundless. Since then the Company have made claims, and have, I believe, received large sums of money on them. They have received infinitely more out of the rebellion than they have lost. The only way, if we touch this claim at all, is to legislate so that we shall not leave any door open for a recurrence of what took place on the occasion to which I have just referred. I would suggest to the Minister that at the third reading of the Bill he might insert a clause so worded as to put an end to any difficulty about this matter.

HON. MR. DICKEY—With regard to this particular clause—"Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the obligation of the Government (if any) arising out of the conditions of the North-West Territories"—the objection made by the hon. gentleman from Halifax is this, and his caution is a very proper one, that we should be careful in dealing with this matter. The question is whether we have not been as careful as it is possible to be, because he says this may be a recognition of an obligation existing before the land is surveyed. But the obligation arising out of the acquisition of the North-West Territory, does not arise until the survey is made, and the obligation is then and then alone, therefore this clause cannot by any possibility be construed as applying to anything until the obligation arises. If before the third reading it can be made more plain there can be no objection to it.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The objection is not to the form of the amendment but to the principle upon which we are working. The difficulty undoubtedly exists, and it is a difficulty which arises out of a solemn contract to which the