

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, in order to meet the wishes of the United States government to make the apex of Mount St. Elias a starting point, our government consented to declare it the starting point no matter whether it was on the Canadian side or not. It is not a matter of very great importance, because the meridian does strike the mountain about 20 miles west of its apex. However, that is not the most essential point between the two countries now, it is the defining of the boundary from Mount St. Elias southward to the southerly point of Prince of Wales Island.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—The Yankees would not have made that concession to us; we are always making concessions.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is a matter of very great regret that although 22 years have passed since that time we are as far from settling that boundary as we were then. The United States took possession, without reference to Canada's claims, of a portion of that territory which we claim is within our line. Up to within a few years the importance of that country was not regarded as of sufficient magnitude to warrant any remonstrance. There was perfect freedom between the citizens of the two countries up to a very recent date.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Is it true that the Canadian custom-house has been removed east from Inghish Lake?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am not aware, a boundary—I will not say a boundary, but a point has been taken possession of by the customs authorities under the belief that they were well within Canadian territory, I could not exactly locate the point.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Has there been any remonstrance by the United States on that subject?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Not that I am aware of.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The statement made by the hon. Secretary of State is very interesting. I am sure all are very grateful to him for the information he has given us in relation to the boundary, but

he has not met the question that I have put. I understood the hon. Minister of Justice to inform the House that the government intended to have a road exclusively within Canadian territory, and that he was opposed to the construction of any road starting from a point which might ultimately fall into the hands of the United States or become United States territory. What I pointed out was this, that Fort Wrangel, the point of departure, is in United States territory and will remain in United States territory even if the contention of the Canadian government be sustained by any commission which may hereafter be appointed, while Dyea, Skagway, Pyramid Harbour and the other points from which it is proposed to build the road, other than Fort Wrangel, will be in British territory if the contention of the Canadian government is affirmed by the commission. If Wrangel is to be the point, it will always be under the control of the United States. I know what the hon. gentleman's contention is in reference to the rights of Canada under treaty, and as a layman I am inclined to think he is correct, but still, there will always be annoyance at Wrangel. What the Secretary of State has said about the attitude of this government towards the United States is quite correct. Some years ago, when I was Minister of Customs, it was found necessary to establish a custom-house at a point on the Stikine River where it was supposed the boundary would be, in order to facilitate trade, and United States trade in particular, in going up the Stikine to the Cassiar district; but there is this difference between the United States government and our own government: during my long experience in the Customs Department no privilege which was not inconsistent with the proper collection of our revenues was ever asked for, that was denied to the United States, even to the carrying of goods through our country, while if we desired to go over a neck of land in their country from one part of Canada to another, a custom-house officer had to be employed and the importer was required to pay an excessive allowance to the United States official, sometimes as high as \$9 a day. I remember one instance, in connection with the Rossland district, when it was brought down to \$3 a day, but what the hon. Secretary of State says is quite correct, that these concessions have always been made by the Canadian government in a friendly manner, but we have never had a