

the Indian population is not so numerous were removed instead of in the Alberta district one could recognize perhaps the wisdom of the course pursued by the government.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—They are taken away from the eastern part as well.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That renders it more serious than I anticipated, because I understand all the men in the district from which I come are under orders to be ready to move at any time to the Yukon country. I point this out to the Minister of Justice so that he may be apprised of the state of affairs which I mention and which is creating some alarm in that country.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—The white population there is very much more numerous than the Indians.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That may be, but they are scattered whereas the Indian population is not.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Not scattered in Calgary.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The Indian population is living upon reserves and could easily organize and prove a very destructive element in the event of their rising at any time.

But dealing with this Yukon charter which is now before us, I have to express my dissent from the statements made in the address in regard to the desirability of this contract being entered into and carried out. Now, it seems to me that the government has done violence to the professions which for many years they had been making. Almost every profession which had been made by the liberal party when in opposition I find has been violated in regard to this particular contract. In the first place we have a contract presented to us involving the granting of a very large amount of the public domain. No intimation whatever is made to the public of the desire of the government that contractors should tender for the building of the road.

Now, the speech of my hon. friend the Minister of Justice was specially directed to the fact that urgency precluded them from adopting this course. It is a well known fact that when the Minister of the Interior went through that country last fall this

matter was under consideration. It was known that numerous applications had been made for the building of a line of railway over this particular route, or approximately so, it was well known that the public demanded that capital should be invested by somebody or other for the building of such a road and no individuals were more seized with the trend of public sentiment in that direction than ministers of the Crown. That happened last year, and yet not a word do we find of anything being done in the way of asking contractors to tender for this particular work until almost immediately before the meeting of parliament. The first intimation we had of such a contract being entered into was in the speech of the Minister of Public Works in Montreal when he rather startled the community by outlining the contract in question. It is not necessary for me to say that public sentiment, entirely irrespective of political thought, at once condemned the contract.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It seemed to do violence not only to every pledge and profession of the liberal party, but it did violence to well established parliamentary practice. Now, if these gentlemen could have vindicated the position which they had taken by placing upon the table of this or the other House, or by giving to the public any information to justify their entering into this contract there might have been some excuse, some defence, some justification for the course they pursued. When my hon. friend from his place in this House undertook to explain the attitude of the government upon this particular subject, I certainly awaited with a considerable degree of curiosity the information that was to be imparted to us, because, I will undertake to say, that never in the history of this Dominion or in the history of responsible government will you find a government coming down to parliament and saying, we are about to alienate four million acres of the public domain to a company for the purpose of carrying out a particular work about which we have no information whatever. They tacitly admit not being able to justify the grant they are about to make, but ask us in the absence of information to swallow it holus bolus, on the ground that the work is necessary, and they made the best bargain possible. It