

He said: I inquired of the minister, and I have been informed that the length of this line is 13 miles. The Minister of Railways did not think the country was as level as was stated. I presume it will cost \$20,000 or \$25,000 a mile.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time.

PUBLIC LANDS ACT AMENDMENT
BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (181) An Act to consolidate and amend the Act respecting the Public Lands of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—That is not the next order.

The SPEAKER—The proper order should be orders of the day for third reading, second, orders which at the time of adjournment were under consideration, and third, orders of the day which at the time of adjournment had not been reached. Therefore, the Public Lands Bill is the next order. If a fresh order paper had been printed, the undisposed orders would have been in their proper place and I take it that is the rule in spite of the fact that we have not a fresh order paper for this afternoon. Rule 29 governs the procedure.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I may say I am advised by one of the officials of the department, whose view I asked as to the main object of the Bill, that it was to eliminate from the law, provisions which it was found in the public interest inadvisable to retain, such as the hamlet and cooperative farming clauses, also the provision respecting registration of charges on the unpatented homesteads, etc. The new features of the Bill relate more particularly to the granting of pre-emption, and second homestead entries, within a defined district and also simplifies the mode of procedure to be followed by settlers in obtaining entries for available Dominion lands and earning title thereto. The numbering of the Bill, as printed for the Senate, does not differ at all from the numbering of the Bill in the House of Commons. The clauses there are all accompanied by notes indicating the reasons there might be. I may say

that in the majority of cases there is no change. Wherever a change of importance had been made it is indicated by a note which is attached to the section. I had myself, as a preface, given some explanation when I first presented the Bill to the House. I say briefly that the Bill is practically the same Bill as was presented to parliament at the last session. The object of the Bill, wherever changes are made, is to adopt those alterations in the sales of the lands and timbered minerals that the experience of the last few years has prompted. Some hon. gentlemen have asked about areas. The total number of good lands that are supposed to be in the three provinces is 170,000,000 acres. That, of course, would not take in the northern lands which are considerably north of Edmonton. From that you may deduct 32,000,000 acres of the odd numbered sections, sales of the lands and timber and minerals that have already been granted to railways. The patents for nearly all those lands have been already granted; between thirty-one and thirty-two million acres have been homesteaded; to that is to be added the Hudson Bay Company lands and school and Indian lands. The number of acres surveyed at the present time in those provinces, I am advised is one hundred and twenty million acres.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Is that additional to the one hundred and seventy million?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is part of the one hundred and seventy million. There are one hundred and twenty million acres that would be open for settlement and homestead unless already taken up. The Bill last year permitted the new homesteader and the second homesteader, to homestead all over the area. This Bill limits the person who has already got one homestead and wishes to take up another to an area that may be described as extending from some distance west of Moose Jaw to a point some distance east of Calgary on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and from the international boundary to township 44. Within that area only it is asked that the pre-emptions of the proposed homestead shall apply. That is the radical difference between the present Bill on that