

I may state that the object of this is to meet a difficulty which has presented itself in regard to the legal boundary of British Columbia on the eastern side, a portion of the boundary, the only part that is at all in question; and, a doubt having arisen as to what is really the legal boundary of British Columbia, and minerals having been discovered, and a good deal of influx of population being anticipated in this portion that is, perhaps, in question, until it is finally decided, it will be found extremely inconvenient to have a section of country there in which questions might arise as to the legality of proceedings taken in relation to any offence committed in that section of the territory. The question is now being investigated with a view to its final settlement, but, until that settlement takes place, it is suggested that it is desirable to have this provision made.

Mr. BLAKE. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman should not have been able to introduce this clause into the Bill originally. I have no information as to what the proposed conventional boundary for the purposes of the administration of justice may be. The hon. gentleman refers to a map, but he gives us no information as to what boundary is assigned to British Columbia by that map. I should like to have some general information as to where the difficulty exists.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The map defines the boundary. It was issued by Mr. Trutch, I think when he was Commissioner of Crown Lands of British Columbia. I do not remember the year at this moment, but it was some considerable time ago. In his map he had marked the boundary, taking the height of land, which I believe is recognized very generally as the boundary. Starting from the boundary line between the United States and Canada at the height of land of the Rocky Mountains, it follows that height of land until, as my hon. friend is aware, it is intersected by a particular meridian which is described in the Imperial Act. The definition in the Imperial Act is not clear as to whether it is on the height of land or not, but Mr. Trutch's map marks it on the height of land, on the watershed of the Rocky Mountains, from the 49th parallel, where it commences, until it intersects this meridian. After that, of course, there is no difficulty and no doubt. That meridian intersects the height of land somewhere, I should think, in the neighbourhood of Tête Jaune Cache, but it is clearly marked on the map, and this will make a perfect conventional boundary until the question is finally settled. The question has been raised by the Government of British Columbia as to what the true boundary is, and, upon reference to the Imperial Act, there is a good deal of obscurity. The question is being investigated, and, if legislation is required, it will have, of course, to be brought here as well as in the Legislature of British Columbia.

Mr. BLAKE. If I recollect aright an earlier piece of legislation provided something with reference to the main chain of the Rocky Mountains and later legislation fixed the height of land at the Rocky Mountains. I think it will be found there is some practical difficulty in saying where the height of land is. I believe there are certain portions of that territory in which there are series of detached mountains, and in one series you can go from mountain to mountain with ranges on each side so that you cannot tell where the height of land is. One can easily see on Fletcher's map that it is difficult to find what is the height of land, because, I believe, that is the real difficulty in the case. Of course, there is some one point which is the height of land, but it is not, as I understand, a visible and easily ascertained object, nor, as I have said, with these detached hills in which there are different ranges, roughly speaking parallel to one another, is it easy to be known which is the main chain of the Rocky Mountains that is to be held to be the boundary, some maps give the easternmost chain of the

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

Rocky Mountains, and others the western. Then I doubt whether the hon. gentleman can, by the force and strength of this legislation alone, grant to the courts of any Province jurisdiction beyond the bounds of that Province. They are Provincial Courts, to all intents and purposes, and if it happens that the territory which the hon. gentleman's clause covers is in reality beyond the powers of the Province, it is a very strong proposition, I think, to say that the Parliament of Canada can confer upon Provincial Courts jurisdiction outside the Province. You are turning them into Dominion Courts and that is the only way you achieve your object. I do not intend to oppose the passage of the clause which, no doubt, the hon. gentleman, under the circumstances, will not ask to be read the third time to-day.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no objection to let the third reading stand over till to-morrow. With reference to the maps, that of Captain Palliser is precisely the same. The line of mountain was taken by Mr. Trutch from Captain Palliser's map.

Mr. MACKENZIE. It is a different scale, is it not?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes.

Mr. HOMER. I did not know this Bill was coming up. I understood it was not ready.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It is distributed and has been marked printed in English.

Mr. HOMER. I called for it two days ago and it was not printed. I see it is not marked yet as printed in French.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The third reading is not proposed to be taken to-day, so the hon. gentleman will have ample opportunity, with the Bill in his hands, of moving any amendments he pleases.

Mr. BLAKE. Every member of this House has a right to understand that no Bill shall be taken until it is marked on the orders as proper to be taken. We dispense with that frequently, and I have not raised any objection this evening, but it is important we should remember that hon. members have a right to believe that until "E. F." is marked against a Bill it cannot be taken.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No doubt the hon. gentleman is quite right, and it is only by courtesy that we can proceed with a Bill under these circumstances. I may say that the reason for proceeding with this Bill at so early a period, arose from the fact that the season is opened, and as the time allowed for the construction of this work is limited, it is desirable that parties should understand whether the Bill is to pass or not.

Bill, as amended, reported.

Mr. HOMER. I ask to have the amendments read.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The only amendment provides that until the eastern boundary of British Columbia is finally determined and settled, for the purpose of criminal jurisdiction, we should adopt the boundary as laid down on Mr. Trutch's map, following the height of land until it strikes the meridian or intersects that.

SUPPLY—NORTH-WEST DISCONTENT.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. CAMERON (West Huron). Mr. Speaker, it is known to many members of the House—or at all events to those who take an interest in public affairs—that discontent prevails to a large extent in the Province of Manitoba and in the North-West Territories, and that a good deal of uneasiness exists in the public mind as to what may be the upshot of this discontent. I fully expected before this period of the Session that the Government would have taken some