

refers that the imperial government can, if they think proper in case of necessity, or war, re-assume all this property?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Oh no, no, no; no reservation of that kind.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—This property belonged to the imperial government at one time. It was handed over, when all these ordnance lands were handed over, to the government of Canada under certain conditions. I do not think it amounts to anything, but I am under the impression that that is the reservation to which the Bill refers. Apart from that, I do not know that there is anything to be gained by a discussion upon this question, because I take it for granted the House will pass the Bill before us. I simply rise for the purpose of entering my protest against the alienation of any portion of that park property for hotel purposes, for the reasons which have been advanced by others. Most of us will remember—I am quite sure my hon. friend will remember—the time when that property was handed over to the city of Ottawa for park purposes, conditional that they would keep it in a state of, shall I say repair, or at least that they would keep it in a state that will be a credit to the city. When the government came back to power in 1878, or shortly afterwards, they re-assumed the ownership of that property on account of the state in which they found it. If my recollection serves me, I think the hon. gentleman from Wellington took exception to that at the time, as incurring a large liability upon the Dominion which should be paid by the corporation of the city of Ottawa, for the reason that it became a part of the city. I need not enter into the history of it further. We know what took place since that time; tens of thousands of dollars have been spent in the beautifying of the park and in the erection of buildings for the purpose of cultivating flowers and so on. Subsequently, the policy enunciated by the Prime Minister, that Ottawa should be made the Washington of the North, induced the government, and parliament sustained it, to loan or advance a very large amount of money, running up, I think, nearly to a million dollars, in order to beautify this city, not only the

park but other portions of the city to make it a credit to the Dominion. I am not aware that the opposition or any one took any serious objection to that course; but now when you have it in an attractive condition you alienate the best and most conspicuous part of the park for hotel purposes. When the hotel is constructed on the site which they have obtained I have no doubt it will be a credit, so far as the architecture of the building is concerned, yet you make the whole of the rear part of the park a playground for the benefit of the hotel. It will be nothing more nor less than just a back yard to the hotel. I think it is a policy that ought not to be adopted, and the city of Ottawa should have taken stronger grounds than they did in order to prevent the alienation of any portion of it.

Hon. Mr. FROST—I am just afraid our hon. friends of the opposition do not quite understand the position of the Ottawa Improvement Commission in respect to this very part of the city. Major's Hill Park will not be used as a playground for the guests of the hotel; the park is there for the whole city, and the Ottawa Improvement Commission, apart from the exact site upon which the hotel will stand, can close the park. It is under their control, and will always be so, as long as the Ottawa Improvement Commission exists. The money which is to be paid for the hotel site by the Grand Trunk Railway is to be expended to extend the park on down to Nepean Point and to create another driveway, which will run not only through the city, but through the country, and I am satisfied that when these improvements are completed by the commission, not only will the Senate of Canada, but I believe the whole Dominion will be proud of it, as they are proud to-day of the work that has already been accomplished by that commission. We might just as well say that the driveway along the canal is the back yard of the houses that are adjoining or abutting on to the parkway, as to say that the Major's Hill Park is to be made the back yard of the hotel. We have just as much reason to say it in one case as in the other. Any one who will take a walk in Major's Hill Park, and see the section of ground