

been made with this railway or with any other railway company, under all the circumstances. It is a wrong principle to take the land of the country for this purpose. I am not going to elaborate that now, as I have done so on a previous occasion. But in regard to what the Prime Minister said this morning, I wish to say a word. He said that we must have a hotel in Ottawa, and this was the only way to get it. I do not wish to say anything disrespectful to the Prime Minister, but I must say that it seems to me his first duty is to protect the public interest of Canada and not bother his head so much about what the city of Ottawa wants. I ask myself whether any other city in Canada, looking at it from a municipal standpoint, if it felt the need of a hotel, could come to this government and get the government to allot a portion of the public lands of the Dominion for a hotel site. I am satisfied it would never be done for any other city; and I do not see on what principle Ottawa has a right to come to the Dominion parliament and ask us to make a bargain like this, and hand over to a railway company lands that belong to the Canadian public. I do not know upon what principle we are to make an exception in favour of the city of Ottawa and assist it to build a hotel. I think the Minister of Public Works let the cat out of the bag in answer to my hon. friend from East Simcoe, when he said that it was this way, that the Grand Trunk Railway Company wanted this site and would not agree to take any other, and so this site had to be given them. The whole matter is wrong. If the Grand Trunk Pacific would not be satisfied with any other site in Ottawa, that is a question for the Grand Trunk and the city to settle between them. But why should this Dominion government step in and sell or barter away to the company a portion of the public lands for a hotel building, simply because the Grand Trunk Pacific demand it? I think the principle is entirely wrong, and I cannot accede to it. I do not know whether a vote is going to be taken on the matter, but if there is, I am prepared to vote against the whole proposition.

Mr. BOYCE. It seems to me that this proposition is an extraordinary one, especially as it has been put before us by the Minister of Public Works. I understand that in 1884 or 1887 this park was created by the government of Canada and became ordnance land.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It became ordnance land long before that.

Mr. BOYCE. It was ordnance land, and by virtue of an Act of parliament it was created a park for public purposes, and has remained so down to this day. I do not know whether the minister is able to inform the committee at this time of the amount of money that has been expended upon it, first, by turning the waste land into a park,

and next, for annual maintenance since that time. But the minister at any rate will concede that a very large amount of money has been expended on that park for public purposes, and it does seem to me an extraordinary proposition, and possibly something more than extraordinary, that the government should, under these circumstances, expropriate or give away to a hotel company, or for the purpose of a hotel, a part of the public domain situated just where this land is situated, especially in view of the fact that immediately adjoining it are lands of very great value which this government has expropriated, and for which it will have to pay a tremendous amount of money. If the government was so much in need of land that it had to expropriate at the cost of a million dollars—

Mr. PUGSLEY. What!

Mr. BOYCE. If the government was so much in need of land for the purposes of public buildings that it had to expropriate lands between Mackenzie avenue and Sussex street—

Mr. PUGSLEY. At a cost of a million dollars you say?

Mr. BENNETT. Yes, when you buy the Lindsay block out.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The Lindsay block alone will cost \$750,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The government have no intention of buying the Lindsay block.

Mr. BOYCE. I may be beyond the mark, but I will let it go at a million dollars that it will cost the government to expropriate lands in the immediate vicinity for public buildings.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Will my hon. friend pardon me?—because it might go out to the country as if there were some shadow of truth in the remarks of my hon. friend, although I take it for granted he does not intend to make a misstatement. The total expenditure for this land is very far from being a million dollars. The land alone will not amount to very much more than half a million dollars, I think about \$600,000.

Mr. BOYCE. Does that include the Lindsay block?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not at all. We do not propose to buy the Lindsay block.

Mr. BOYCE. The hon. gentleman will admit that if it does include the Lindsay block, it will exceed a million dollars by the time the expropriation is completed.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It does not include the Lindsay block.

Mr. BOYCE. Then we will say at a cost of about a million dollars for expropriating land on which to erect public buildings in the immediate vicinity of this park; and the government is giving away for far less than