

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—They have power under the Act which we passed a few months ago, to expropriate land.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They have no powers of expropriation whatever.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Oh, yes. It was made subject to the submission to parliament of whatever action might be taken by the commission.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—They have certainly power to expropriate and spend the money without showing for what purpose, and this Bill is evidently to show where the money is going. I think we should have a plan. The government are not in possession of any information on the subject.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—They have a right to ask the commission for it.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, because the purchases will be limited by the amount of money they receive. This parliament is not giving any more money. The money is coming from the public.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—This Bill asks for authority to expropriate lands. Immediately they are expropriated and the amount of money is agreed upon, another Bill will be brought before parliament to vote that amount.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Then it will just cost double the amount. We had no right to tie it up in the way we did. Options should have been taken three or four years ago when property was at a low price.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I think that was done. I think options were asked from each of the proprietors, and most of the proprietors had given options.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Was this \$300,000 voted by parliament to go to any specific purpose or to the general fund?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No it was to be spent on the celebrations coming on at Quebec. All parties subscribing were given an assurance that no part of that fund was to go for the purchase of land. We are not granting them money. We are simply allowing them to use the money they had on hand for the purchase of the land, and the longer it drags on the more it will cost.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Surely my hon. friend has some information about it.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Oh no.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The government must have asked the price of the lands?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No. My hon. friend is mistaken. The government has nothing to do with it. We are authorizing the commission to spend that money in the purchase of lands.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—What have we to do with them?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—You took from them the right to buy the land. It was a stupid thing to do.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—It was done by the government.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The statement is clear enough. There is no question that if the contributions are not sufficient to meet the amounts required to pay off the parties from whom the property was purchased, it will have to be voted by parliament, and we will be asked to vote whatever balance may be required. It is all very well to say you are not asking any money at the present moment; we understand that, but it involves the expenditure of money, and in case the amount is not sufficient, parliament will be asked to meet the deficit.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is no promise of that kind.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I understand that, neither was there any promise with the Quebec bridge.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is no parallel.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The country is asked to assume the whole responsibility; but whether they intend to pay the parties who subscribed for the stock of the Bridge Company is not known yet, and it is just the same with the Bill before us.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I have the former Bill before me now. 'An Act respecting the National Battlefields at Quebec, Clause 1 says:

No land or immovable property shall be purchased or acquired by the commission except with the previous authority of parliament.