

Mr. BLAKE. Has the hon. gentleman entered into any negotiations with the company as to the surrender of any claims they may have to these lands?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). No.

Mr. BLAKE. So that at present a large portion of what we propose to reserve is really subject to the right of the Canadian Pacific Railway to take alternate sections?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). The only question is whether the land is fairly fit for settlement, and this, being all mountainous land, is not.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The option lies with the company, and if they chose to consider it fit for settlement the law would not sustain the hon. gentleman in refusing to accept their decision upon that point. We ought to know whether this land that he proposes to reserve is ours alone, or ours and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's. I would point out also this fact, which he stated to-day, that 1,100 acres of anthracite coal-mining lands are in very close proximity to the springs, will, if the mines are worked, produce an undesirable settlement of an undesirable class of population, having reference to the especial objects of this reservation. No doubt miners in themselves are useful and industrious members of the community, but the establishment of a mining town so close to the springs might interfere with the object the hon. gentleman is aiming at. I would like to know, in addition to what is proposed to be done with the Canadian Pacific Railway, whether any attempts have been made to sink shafts or in any way to develop these coal lands, and whether the Government consider they have it in their power to resume these either by treaty or by taking them, as in such case they fairly might, at their fair value?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). These coal lands are on the other side of the Bow River, about three miles distant, and, strictly speaking, are not in the park at all. I believe one of the companies has been doing some work on them, but how far successfully I really cannot say. It would not be proper for me to say anything, because anything I have heard is simply rumor.

Mr. MITCHELL. The park is entirely reserved on the north-west side of Bow River, the coal lands are on the other side, and therefore the one will not interfere with the other. True, these coal operations may be carried on to a large extent, and I hope they will be, because it is in the interest of the country they should be developed and become one of our most important industries. If these deposits are there, and I believe they are, it might not be a very desirable thing, in the vicinity of a health-giving institution such as a great park like that, with the springs which will be so desirable for invalids, to have them located in that vicinity; but there they are, and we have to deal with them as we find them. What I realise about the matter from my personal observation is that there are those springs, which are, in my opinion, of vast importance to this country, and which, if properly attended to, developed, cultivated and cared for, will be a place of great resort not alone to people out of health, but, if the park is properly attended to, to the general public. People travelling through will all desire to remain over there for a day or two, and it is our duty to encourage that place as far as possible. There should be few restrictions and few limitations introduced into the area which it is proposed to reserve for the park. If there be any persons who have claims there, we should accept the fact that they are there, or we should endeavor to purchase them out. I think we should give a great deal of license to the Government in a matter of this kind. I do not generally have much confidence in the Government, but in this case I would let the

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell).

geniuses of the Department of the Interior show what they can do, whether they can develop a great tract in that section of the country; and, from what we have seen in the past of the inventive genius of the Minister of the Interior, and the enterprise he has brought to bear in his own private interests, and the attention he has given to public affairs, I have no doubt he will make it a point to make that park a great spot for public resort, and that he will leave his success in this matter as one of the records of his public life when he departs from the Government. I am not anxious to see a change of Government. I do not suppose there will be one this year; but I think we shall have it before a year or two. I hope that, while he has the power to do it, the hon. gentleman will make this a success.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has already answered, with reference to a very large section of the territory which it is proposed to make into a park, that it is dependent on the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Now, with reference to the springs themselves, there were for a long time statements appearing in the public press as to some persons claiming property in these springs by right of discovery, or by other titles which are generally set up to precious spots vested in the Crown. I think another ex-member of Parliament—not the one referred to by the hon. gentleman as a prospective hotel-keeper—but another ex-member of Parliament set up a claim to certain rights of property in these springs. I desire to ask whether any such claim is now made, or whether it has been settled, and if the Department is able to state whether there is now any outstanding claim which is of validity.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). There is no outstanding claim in reference to these springs. The Government have refused to recognise any right of discovery in regard to them, but there were people who had made some discoveries or improvements in connection with them, and it was a matter of honesty that they should be dealt with. Mr. Pearce made an investigation on the spot in regard to these claims, and took a considerable amount of evidence; and if any hon. gentleman desires to move for the papers, they will be brought down.

Mr. BLAKE. I gather from what the hon. gentleman says that nothing has yet been done in reference to these claims.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). There has been only the payment to one claimant.

Mr. BLAKE. Who was that?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). Mr. Woodworth.

Mr. BLAKE. Oh, Mr. Woodworth.

Mr. MITCHELL. How much?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). A thousand dollars.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman will see that it is not unreasonable that, on this first clause by which we are proposing to appropriate this property, we should learn our title to the property. As to the suggestion which the hon. gentleman has made, that the discussion of the Estimates was the proper place and time for dealing with these expenditures, I do not differ from that statement, nor as to the estimates the hon. gentleman proposes to bring down to us, but there has been already a large expenditure, an expenditure of \$46,000, for which the hon. gentleman does not propose to estimate.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). That will come in the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. BLAKE. Yes, but the money is spent and gone, and we know the character of the discussion which takes place on a matter of that kind. It seems to me not unreasonable that when, before obtaining any authority for the