

not spend a single dollar till they have a new grant from the Dominion and Provincial governments; not until they receive a grant in free title from the City of Vancouver, will they spend a single dollar in its development. The covenant of this company may be good today and useless tomorrow, but if they obtained the grant they might do nothing further. I do not say they would not do it, but I say it was not business. They could go tomorrow, and at once sell all their lands to other railway companies, or to any member of this House. Or suppose they were merged with other railway companies, in what position would the city be then? But the city said it is the best we can get; we can get nothing better; but we have got something better. We have shown the people that this Government could make a better bargain than the City of Vancouver, and we have in this agreement the covenant of the Great Northern Railway Company, that very railway company that controls this company, to carry out every item of the agreement, and so I am proud to state we have today behind this agreement what we never had before, namely, the whole system of the Great Northern Railway Company, one of the greatest companies that runs across the American continent. (Applause.)

"I want to read to you something that shows exactly the stand we took. It was said in the municipal elections in Vancouver that having got a grant from the Dominion government, that was all that was necessary; but the solicitors of the V. V. & E. evidently did not think so. Look at section 4, and it will show you what they think of our powers, and it will show you that we have always been as friendly to them as to other companies that have large interests in this Province, and when they asked us to put a section in the bill to protect their rights, we did so, so clause 4 says:—

"It is hereby declared that agreement C is and has been from the making thereof a good, valid, and binding contract between the parties thereto, on the terms therein contained." Showing clearly that the V. V. & E. had very grave doubts about the legality of the original agreement made by the city council, bearing out my statement that I have never considered that the council had the right to put before the

people, except as a referendum, the original bylaw. And the representatives of that company, able, I gal men, come and express themselves as of the same opinion. Why should they put this section in the bill, if the original agreement was binding on the people?

"Now, I want to point out in this agreement one hundred and thirty acres are left to the city, and there are a few lots left near Westminster Avenue bridge which it will be necessary for the city to acquire in order to gain access to this land in the centre of the creek, so that it will be necessary to bring down another bill, to be known as the False Creek Reclamation Act to allow the city to expropriate these thirteen lots and take the riparian rights leading to their own land, the 130 acres now covered by water, so that if they wish to go forward with some scheme of their own they will have power to do so. I also wish to point out that in our agreement we protect the rights of all riparian owners on the creek.

"I must apologize for taking up the time of the House, but men in public life are often subject to unjustifiable criticism, and the Government has been so in this particular case. It is easy to talk and write newspaper articles when you have the people behind you, and are backed by a popular majority, but when a Government stands up against all this for the rights of the people, it shows of what metal it is made. (Applause.) I have been challenged with standing in the way of the progress of the city. One paper went so far as to say that I had set the city five years back by my opposition to that agreement, but I am willing to leave it to the city. I leave it to my own people to say whether I have not stood by their interests in this agreement. We now have the Great Northern covenant and we have improved and modified the agreement in many ways, and I think the people of Vancouver will say that notwithstanding all hysterical criticism, notwithstanding all that might be unpopular, we have again shown in our regard for the people's interest, that what we first considered was not the interests of corporations, but the interest of the people at large, and in every piece of legislation we have brought down we have always stood for the public interest as against the interest of corporations." (Applause.)