

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Does the hon. gentleman think that Mackenzie & Mann would take 3,000,000 acres of land in the North-west, and build that road—I mean the country between Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains—arable land?

Hon. Mr. POWER—On that point I might refer to the hon. gentleman from Shell River. It just happens that Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann have completed a railway in the Dauphin Lake region under grants, not made by this government, but where they had been paid some money and some land grants, and I am satisfied that Mackenzie & Mann would probably have made money in the end on that road if they had built it for a land grant of 3,000,000 acres. There is no money in three millions of acres of rock in the Klondike.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That is where the money is.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I have detained the House for some considerable time and I propose not to say anything more upon this contract. I noticed that in the closing portion of the speech we are told that:

Measures will be submitted to us respecting superannuation the repeal of the present Franchise Act, and a plebiscite on the question of prohibition.

I do not propose to go into these matters except with reference to superannuation. I do not know whether the measure this year will be the same as that submitted last session, but that measure contained one provision of which I very decidedly approved; that whatever money a civil servant would be entitled to under the terms of the Act if he had lived would go to his family in case of his death. That would remedy one great defect in the existing superannuation system. With respect to the details of the measure I reserve my opinion.

Hon. Mr. O'DONOHUE—I had expected to have heard more from my hon. friend as to what was being given for these 150 miles of railway. As far as I can observe, the public mind is agitated, very highly and very fervently, about the parting with such a quantity of land for 150 miles of tramway. Take the 150 miles of tramway and advertise for tenders for its construction. What will it cost? What will you get a tender from competent contractors to build it for? We have had those narrow gauge roads through-

out the province of Ontario in many places. What did they cost? About \$8,000 a mile, the most expensive of them; and so unfit were they for the work to be done by them that I believe nearly all of them if not the whole of them have been changed to the broad road. It is a fact that in changing one of those narrow roads you might as well make a new one, and you will never have as solid a road after you change it to broad gauge as you would have had by putting down the broad gauge first; and on the other hand, when you come to meet any of the railways of the world, you can neither allow their cars to go over it nor send your rolling stock over theirs. No union can ever take place between this piece of road and the roads that are now in existence throughout the North-west Territories. The hon. gentleman tells us it is a world of rock we are giving. The hon. the Secretary of State said about the same thing—we are giving rock. Is it rock that is attracting the people all over the world to the Klondike, or is it the mineral? My hon. friend who has just sat down said that these contractors are not taking the land away. No, they are not; but what is the land worth to us when what is in it of value is taken out? No good at all. If there be gold there it seems to me, and I think you will find that it seems so to the public that we are throwing away that gold for hardly any consideration at all. Your 150 miles of narrow gauge road is not worth talking of, or being put in the scale, against the value, the prospective value at all events, of what we are parting with. We have made no examination of the richness of those lands worth speaking of, but we find the man of all others who seems to know most of it, in a lecture delivered by him just after coming out of it saying that in a certain portion of it there is, without question, \$30,000,000 of gold to be taken out within a very small area. Now I rose only to say to my hon. friend that I expected him to dwell upon the point of what they were parting with and what he places its value at.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—In proposing to offer a few observations on the speech with which we have been favoured by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of this session, I cannot do so without expressing the deep regret which I feel at the absence from his seat of the hon.