

that man or corporation alone should enjoy those privileges, that we would not permit any one else to enjoy them, that, as I understand it, would be a monopoly.

NO MONOPOLY.

But we have given no monopoly to Mr. Whitney and his associates. If Mr. Whitney wanted a monopoly in coal he would have been a foolish man to come to this Government for it. And for two reasons : First, because the members of this Government are not understood to favor monopolies ; secondly, because if Mr. Whitney wanted a monopoly he could better obtain it by not coming to the Government. I would like hon. gentlemen to mark that every possible criticism that can be offered against this measure will be found to be really a criticism, not of the measure itself, but of the law as it stands to-day upon the statute book. If the objection is to monopoly. I say that monopoly is possible under the law as it exists to-day, There is no monopoly in this bill ; on the other hand, there are checks which will render it difficult, if not impossible. If Mr. Whitney wanted monopoly to-day, what is there to prevent him from obtaining it ? Monopoly is largely a question of money, and if Mr. Whitney has money enough to buy up the lease of every mine in the province, what is there to prevent him from doing it ? I assert that there is nothing, and that if Mr. Whitney wants monopoly he can get it without coming to us for it. But it is because Mr. Whitney does not want monopoly, but wants to work the mines vigorously, under conditions more favorable to the public and to himself, that he comes to us to make arrangements with him. I repeat that there is nothing to prevent Mr. Whitney getting a monopoly if he desired it as the law now stands. There is only one feature of the Mining Act which could put a check upon it, and if that is pointed to I can satisfy any member of the House that it is practically a dead letter, that it cannot be enforced, but can be evaded as often as a man has brains and money enough to get around it.

THE CONCESSIONS REQUIRED.

Well, now, what did Mr. Whitney want ? He thought that there could be some improvement in our mining law. What was it that he objected to ? Gentlemen may say, and there are many no doubt in this Province who will say, in view of the outcry last year against the increase of royalty from seven and a half cents a ton to ten cents a