

want everything you bought. You bought that as my agent." That is not true. He selected it for the Crown to buy, but under a special law which said, "Whatever the Crown may buy, it shall sell to the soldier only the land itself and not the mines and minerals."

Now, why did the law say that? It was for this reason. We knew the soldiers would be selecting some Crown lands, and in such cases, we knew, they could not get the mines and minerals.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But the Crown dispossessed itself of the piece of property.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That is true, but we knew some soldiers would be selecting Crown lands and would not get the minerals. None of them would be thinking about mines and minerals at all. We did not want to be in the position of conveying mines and minerals to one class who happened to pick this land or that, and of having to deny them to another class; so we provided in our law that nobody should get the mines and minerals.

The Minister says, "We make money out of that fellow." We do not. He bought under a special law, and knew what he was buying. If we do make something out of the mines and minerals reserved, it will be a mere bagatelle compared with what we lose on the whole plan. I cannot be certain, but I think this very subject was discussed in the House of Commons long years ago, and I think I took part in the discussion and showed that there might be some recovery along this line.

However, if other honourable members do not feel as I do, I am not going to press the matter further. I think the Crown is giving up as a sheer gift something which the soldier never intended to buy, and did not buy, and which the Act forbade him to buy; and the Crown has now very little of the treasures of this world to give up.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I realize that the Crown has lost millions in this venture; but when we come to the rights of the individual I ask what answer the right honourable gentleman has to the argument that if the party had known he was being deprived of things which perhaps would be valuable in ten or twenty years—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: He must have known it. It was in the Act.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Generally the soldier will look at the conveyance.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Not in Western Canada. Only the original lands in Western Canada were sold without any reservation so

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

far as mineral rights were concerned. In millions of acres of land the rights were retained in the Government. It was only with respect to the early grants that settlers acquired mineral rights.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But I draw attention to the fact that the Crown had already dispossessed itself of that land with the mineral rights, and it had gone into private hands.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Yes; a very small area.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But we are discussing it from this narrow point of view. A soldier selected a piece of land that had left the possession of the Crown and was in the hands of an individual, and the Crown had abandoned its right to the minerals. One could fairly argue that the Crown had been paid for them, or had got an enhanced value. The Crown had dispossessed itself of the land. The land had passed to A, and the soldier, B, said, "I will take that piece of land." That carried with it the minerals, and if he had paid out of his own pocket there would have been no question. He got from a private individual the rights that had been abandoned or sold by the Crown. I think that under those circumstances he was entitled to treat the board as an agent that bought for him, as was said by my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) when he explained the situation to the House of Commons, and that handed him, when he had discharged all his obligations, the property so bought.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: In my judgment there is no question at all as to what the intent of Parliament was, so far as these mineral rights were concerned. I think the record would show very clearly what that intent was, and it might be worth while to have the matter inquired into further. It is not correct to say that the soldier actually bought the land and all it contained, above and below the ground—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If he bought from a private individual, that is correct.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: —because the law, under which the soldier was buying, specifically provided that when he got his title the mineral rights should be reserved to the Crown. So it is incorrect to argue that the board was merely the agent of the soldier and bought for him everything above and below the ground. In actual practice, what happened? The soldier never thought of the mineral rights at all. He was interested in the soil