

by offering so much in cash per mile and so many acres of land to secure the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway? Mr. Mackenzie never got an offer to do it. He offered 20,000 acres of land per mile and so much in cash. My hon. friend compares the arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway with the splendid arrangement this government has made. He says that we exempted the Canadian Pacific Railway from taxation. What taxes could we have collected from the building of that road or what taxes could we have collected upon any imports between the north of Lake Superior and the Pacific coast before the road was built? It would have been entirely useless to have attempted to have made any such collection of taxes. Of what value was the land? The Canadian Pacific Railway would have been glad to have taken a dollar an acre for it. It only assumed any value as a result of the building of the railway and it has become of value by the development of the country which is going on at the present time. Then, my hon. friend tells us about the experts who have been over the road. He mentions Sir Sandford Fleming in reference to the construction of the road from Winnipeg and he describes him as an expert engineer. Did the hon. gentleman ever read Sir Sandford Fleming's statement in reference to the Canadian Pacific Railway? Did he ever read that gentleman's statement as to what the people of this country would have to pay for the running of that road after its construction, as to what it would cost them for a certain number of years and that by no possibility could the company put it upon a paying basis until there was a population of 800,000 in the Northwest Territories. If the hon. Finance Minister would only get him to make the surveys, I will promise him that there will be no road completed within the next twenty years. It would take him twenty years to make a survey of the country from Winnipeg to Quebec. He would do it thoroughly and perfectly. He is an engineer who would see that everything was perfectly done.

In reference to the character of the country, Dr. Bell has been quoted. The hon. gentleman quoted from some remarks he made in a report of the geological survey issued twenty-five years ago. I have had many conversations with Dr. Bell in reference to the character of the country. He says that nothing is known of the country back from the banks of the rivers, that all the explorers who go up to Hudson's Bay follow the rivers, that there are morasses and rocks in most places between the rivers and that it is impossible that the character of the country can be known. It is possible that north of the height of land through drainage the country may turn out to be an excellent country. Then, the hon. gentleman refers to the remarks made

Mr. HAGGART.

by Mr. Macoun before the Committee on Agriculture yesterday. Mr. Macoun was talking about a country lying north of Lake Winnipeg. Our railway passes south of it. He is 150 miles from the line of the road when he commences his description of the country. He says that there are a thousand million acres of arable land between Lake Winnipeg and the shores of Hudson's bay. Every one knows that on the slope of Hudson's bay there is a large clay plateau on which the land is excellent and the only question is as to whether summer frosts are such as to prevent grain from being successfully grown in that part of the country. I hope that it may turn out that grain can be grown there. I hope that that section of the country may turn out to be all that is expected of it, but this railway does not touch it at all. The hon. gentleman tells us what a magnificent country this is. He has spoken of the forests of pulpwood that renew themselves, I think he said, every seven years. You can go in and cut them down and they will grow up every seven years. It is, he says, a magnificent country that we are building this expensive railway through. There is no one on this side of the House who is decrying the country. What we want on this side of the House and what the country wants is that before entering into an undertaking on which the hon. Minister of Finance intends to expend \$64,000,000 of the people's money, we should have an accurate report as to what the country is. We have not a tittle of information as to the country between Lake Abitibi and Quebec. The right hon. leader of the government says that we have mountains of information, but we have nothing that is of any practical use to a railway man. I believe that Sir Sandford Fleming is possessed of surveys to a certain extent between Lake Nepigon and Winnipeg. I tried to get these surveys. They were made when the Canadian Pacific Railway was in course of construction. I thought they were in the department, but I was told by the hon. Minister of Finance that the only surveys in the possession of the department were those published in the report of Sir Sandford Fleming. I knew that several surveyors had been at work north of Lake Nepigon and had surveyed east and west. I gave a description of that country, describing it as a sea of morasses broken up here and there by ridges. The right hon. leader of the government added to that description by saying that there was jackpine in that section of the country. We do not decry the country but we want to know the bald facts in connection with it. We hope that the water powers which the hon. gentleman described are to be found in that section of the country, and we hope that the immense quantities of agricultural lands are to be found as they have been described, but we want more information in regard to the