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I have adverted to this matter in connection with the enterprise in order that members of the House, from the west particularly, may see that in considering this matter we have not lost sight of their interests. Members from Manitoba and the Northwest know very well and thoroughly understand that in any project of this kind I at least will be most sedulous in looking after the interests of Manitoba and the Northwest, the fertile districts of which I hope to see settled by a very much larger population than is there at the present time and affording a much larger and more profitable market for the merchants and manufacturers of the east.

This, therefore, is the scheme we have laid before the House for its approval. In addition to possessing these advantages, it is in every sense the only available and practicable route at the present time to meet the absolute necessities of the occasion; and I leave the subject with this statement as to the project, that when this railway has been completed it will be practically the only route that will carry the ordinary commerce connected with the Yukon country. The St. Michael's route can never do anything more than a small transportation business; the routes by Dyea and Skagway are impracticable—they are practicable only until the railway is built. The result of carrying out the proposed project will be that an immense volume of trade, which we hope to see going into that country, will be forced over the Stikine route, and instead of the thousands of miners, whom we are told by the New York "Herald" are arriving daily at Seattle, preparing to go north by American steamboats and by American routes, they will find themselves forced in their own interest to come to Victoria, Vancouver and other points in British Columbia, and there obtain their goods and outfits, take their passage on Canadian boats and travel by Canadian channels up to the Yukon district. This will be the result, we hope, and I see no reason to doubt that the hope is well founded in view of the policy we have submitted to the House. At the risk of being wearisome I will read some clauses from the contract, especially with the view of converting members of the Opposition. I have myself found, from this short experience I had in legislation before I came to this House, that it is a very common thing for even careful and systematic and intelligent members of the House, in the rush of business, not to give a very careful and thorough reading to Bills which come before Parliament. Therefore, so as to avoid any misconceptions, I shall take the liberty of reading the terms of this contract; and it will only take me a few minutes. It says:

1. The contractors covenant with the Government to lay out, construct, equip, and fully com-

plete a line of railway with proper terminal facilities from the navigable waters of the Stikine River in British Columbia, at or near the mouth of Telegraph Creek, Glenora, or the mouth of Clear Water River, thence running northward to the navigable waters of Teslin Lake, a distance of about one hundred and fifty miles, more or less, on or before the first day of September, A.D. 1898, the said railway when fully completed to be of the general standard and gauge of the Kaslo and Slocan Railway in British Columbia and according to the specifications to be approved by the Minister of Railways.

Provided also, that the said railway shall be the property of the contractors but shall be subject to inspection and approval by an engineer to be named by the Minister of Railways and Canals before being accepted as complete by the Government.

Provided further, that for the purposes of the season of 1898 and of complying with the requirements of this contract in respect to the completion of the line on or before the said first of September, it shall be sufficient if, on or before that date, the contractors have the rails laid in such a manner as will permit of regular and efficient operation of the railway, although the whole work be not fully completed, and if the said railway be sufficiently equipped for such operation. Provided also, that the location of said railway between the points mentioned shall be such as the contractors may decide upon without filing plans thereof prior to completion, provided that the grant of land hereby contracted for shall not be made upon a larger mileage than the Minister of Railways considers reasonably necessary for traversing the distance between the terminal points.

2. The Government shall submit to Parliament at its next ensuing session a measure for the necessary Act confirming this agreement and authorizing the Government and the contractors to perform and carry out the same, also incorporating the contractors and such others as may become shareholders into a company under the name of the Canadian Yukon Railway Company or other name approved by the contractors (herein after referred to as the contractors' company) with power to acquire and perform and carry out this agreement, and with all necessary provisions in that behalf, and with all necessary powers to build and operate a railway above mentioned and an extension thereof northward to Dawson City or thereabouts and an extension southward to a point in British Columbia to be designated by the Government and capable of being made an ocean port, also a line of railway from the waters of Lynn Canal to Port Selkirk or thereabouts by way of Chilkat Pass, also branch lines of railway from any points on the company's railways to any property owned by the company, also lines of railway from any navigable waters to any property owned by the company: Provided that the power to build said lines from Lynn Canal to Port Selkirk and said branch lines and said lines from navigable waters shall not be exercised without the consent of the Governor General in Council.

I am reading this to show that a lot of things which have been imputed to this contract, are not in it at all, that they are not contemplated by the contract, and that they never were contemplated by the Government. The House will at once see that this clause which provides for these extensions, does not at all contemplate that any bonus should be given for them. They are