

for repayment. I think that our lands or our mines should be nursed for the benefit of the country, for the benefit of the people who come after us, and the revenue which can still be obtained from it, and not given away recklessly and blindly, in the way we have been doing, as was condemned in the case of British Columbia, when they gave the enormous grant last year, when they gave the grant to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and it was also given to Mackenzie & Mann in the case of the Lake Dauphin Railway. It did not cost \$8,000 a mile to build the line, and the Manitoba government guaranteed the bonds to the extent of \$8,000 a mile, and they had the land grant of 6,400 acres a mile, and a cash subsidy of \$2,000 a mile. Now if that is indefensible, and if 6,400 acres per mile is considered too large a land grant, with a guarantee from the provincial government that gave them the cash to build the road with, leaving them the land grant and the subsidy of the Dominion government free to do as they liked with, unrestricted, untouched, no bonds on it, all their own—they have the title deeds of it, hon. gentlemen; they built the road for the \$8,000 the government gave them, they have the right to issue bonds upon it, and it is paying all the fixed charges to-day and has been from the first day it started. That is well known in Manitoba. Those are the concessions and privileges we are giving to contractors, and they become millionaires by the cession of public lands and property in that reckless way. If it was reckless to give them 6,400 acres a mile on that occasion, is it not ten times more reckless to give them for each mile of this road 25,000 acres of our gold bearing lands? Because, you must recollect, that with gold bearing lands the value is sometimes enormous.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—My hon. friends will see that if these blocks extended half a mile back from the river the quantity of land would be reduced to one-twelfth of what it is, and so far as the placer gold is concerned, the quantity granted will be exactly the same.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Those are items to be considered. I know perfectly well that every acre of that 4,000,000 acres is not equally productive, and that there

is a very large portion of it will probably be valueless. I am quite prepared to acknowledge that. And so with regard to our placer mines, we know that it is in the deep pools that the gold drops down. Where it is rapid there is no gold; it will not settle there, but where it gets deep it sinks to the bottom. So that really it is concentrated in pockets. But if it is all concentrated you may be sure Mackenzie & Mann will get hold of the concentrated parts, and that the government is not likely to obtain possession of a concentrated part. However, that is apart from the position that I take. In the laying out of our lands in the North-west Territories we have even-numbered sections. The even-numbered sections were for open entry by the people at large, for the purpose of encouraging population to come there and get the land. We reserved the odd-numbered sections to preserve the development of the country; and to serve as a future resource for the development of that country. Well, now, we have recklessly given away some forty million acres of our land, and to that extent we have parted with it. But I wish to point out that it is advisable that we should not continue this course, and I can only repeat what I was taught by the Liberal party for 20 years in their speeches. In the mining country we should endeavour to reserve a certain portion for those who mine, for the individuals who go in there: that portion is for the public to assist in developing the country. We should endeavour to utilize the other half in some way that it will recoup the Treasury by a revenue from its resources for governing the country. The government apparently have made no effort to ascertain whether it would be possible to formulate such a scheme as would develop that half reserved from the public by the mining regulations in order to develop a revenue. We certainly are not going to develop a revenue from Mackenzie & Mann under the present contract and the resources of the country we are going to part with. I suggest to the government that a company could be formed to mine the alternate sections in conjunction with the government, that is to say, that to-morrow if the government were to say we will form a company and give them the right to mine those alternate lands in conjunction with the government, for the benefit of the government, with a representative of the government on