

granting of lands for a greater length than is considered necessary to connect the two points Glenora or Telegraph Creek and the head of Teslin Lake. But after going carefully over Mr. Jennings's report I think most of us will come to the conclusion that the railway is going to be more than 150 miles long. It will certainly be very much longer if it starts at Little Cañon as Mr. Jennings thinks it ought to start. In that case it will be 208 miles. Even if it starts at either Telegraph Creek or Glenora and reaches Teslin Lake, after reading Mr Jennings's report we come to the conclusion that the railway is going to be more than 150 miles long, and if that is so there will be more than 3,750,000 acres to give to the contractors as a consideration. I look upon this grant of four or five millions of acres to these contractors as in itself a most extraordinary consideration. My hon. friend the senior member from Halifax pointed out what he thought was a modification of this extraordinary grant. He pointed out the fact that the company would only be able to claim 92,000 acres at a time, that for every ten miles of railway they would build they would get this proportionate amount, they were not, he said, able to go in and gobble up all the country at once. He thought that ought to be taken into account, as something that would guard the public interest. To my mind it makes the matter more dangerous than it would otherwise be, for then these gentlemen will be able to hold their hand and operate in detail. They will be able to make every miner and prospector that goes into that country an agent of theirs, and when any valuable gold is found before any considerable body of miners can go in there and fix locations the company can strike a base line and gobble up the locality. The mineralized territory is very large, and prospectors will wander up and down that country, and the experience of the past has been that hundreds may pass over ground and find nothing, and the next man may come along and find gold, and gold will be found from time to time in places that were not thought to be richly auriferous at all in the first stages of exploration. But this company having enormous interests there with their surveyors and mining engineers and experts of every kind, that money can command will be able to watch the movements of these miners, and as soon as ever a strike

is made in a particular locality which is found to be valuable, they can run a base line, and at once secure the ground. The miner who is in there may be able to remain although there is no provision in the contract that he has the right to use any fuel. There is a reservation of water courses but no reservation of timber for fuel, and any solitary miner who gets into a valuable belt of country would be driven out as soon as the company strike their base line, because he could not use a stick of timber for fuel and we know that in placer mining fuel is absolutely necessary, and it is not very plentiful in that country. The hon. Secretary of State in reply to the hon. gentleman from Victoria pointed across the House and told him "why is the hon. gentleman so alarmed about this grant of land? The British Columbia government have been making enormous grants of land for railways, and why is he so alarmed because such a grant as this is made in the Yukon country far away in the north." Let me tell my hon. friend that I have gone over the acts of British Columbia very carefully and I find no such grant of land as this has ever been made by the government of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. There were two or three companies that received land grants, 20,000 acres per mile.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—As far as the bare statement of so many acres a mile goes the hon. gentleman may be right, but he is just right that far and no further. How far have mineral rights been given to them?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That is the point.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Yes, that is the point.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I should like to ask the hon. gentleman whether he approves of giving lands which would probably develop the resources of the North-west Territories to develop the resources of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I will reach that later. My point is that there is not in the legislation of British Columbia or any province of Canada, or I doubt very much whether there is in the legislation of any