

gether out of place. We are proud of the Canadian Pacific Railway, because it is one of the best managed lines on the continent. We also have a right to feel proud of the Grand Trunk Railway. It is a good line and well and ably managed, and has a creditable record. With regard to the site of the hotel, I think it is a good one. If there is any thing Ottawa wants more than another it undoubtedly is better hotel accommodation. The accommodation at present is not creditable to the capital of the Dominion, and I often have occasion to regret, when prominent visitors come to the capital, that we have not better accommodation for them. We have magnificent hotel accommodation in Montreal, to which the Canadian Pacific Railway has contributed immensely, and we want a first class hotel here. I do not think you can devote a portion of Major's Hill Park to any better purpose. Major's Hill Park belongs to the Dominion, not to the city of Ottawa. Large sums of money have been spent by the government on the park, and the entire Dominion has a perfect right to enjoy it. The best way to enjoy it is to erect a commodious and comfortable hotel at the south end of it, where it will be central and at the same time isolated. It will be close to the parliament buildings and convenient to the business parts of the city. The government could not have done better than to sell a portion of the park for a hotel site. With regard to the expenditure of the purchase price of the site on park improvements, I should like to see Nepean Point added to the park. It will make a lovely walk not only for the citizens of Ottawa, but for the guests of the hotel. Everything considered, it will tend to beautify that portion of the city. From what I have heard with regard to the hotel plans, it will be an ornament to the city and in keeping with the public buildings in the vicinity. The Grand Trunk Railway deserve credit for their enterprise, rather than to be lectured by any one and told that their finances do not justify them in undertaking the project.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—A number of speakers have undertaken to lecture me as going beyond my duty.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN.

The CHAIRMAN—I should like the hon. gentlemen to confine themselves to the Bill.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I have addressed myself to the Bill, and have no intention of going beyond it. We have before us a Bill which proposes to give away property which belongs to the Dominion, and in which the city of Ottawa ought to take a special interest. We are giving it to a railway corporation and have a right to discuss whether that railway corporation should get it and whether they should not in view of the enormous subventions they have received from Canada and knowing that this is a pretty hard time for all railway companies, devote the money to improving their lines rather than to building this hotel. The hon. gentleman from Wellington undertook to intimate very politely, as he always does, that I have wandered away from the truth. Of course I did not go to the fountain of truth, the hon. member, for the information I laid before the House. I question the wisdom of looking to such a source; I sometimes think he does not possess more than is necessary for his own consumption. The view I take of this question is that it is not the first duty of any railway to build hotels. Their first duty is to keep their roads in good condition and furnish first-class accommodation for freight and passengers. We would not discharge our duty in discussing this Bill if that point were not emphasized. I was not giving a mere matter of opinion like the hon. gentleman from Portage la Prairie and the hon. gentleman when I said that the statistics show most conclusively that the Grand Trunk Railway is not as well equipped as other lines, the Canadian Pacific Railway for instance.

Hon. Mr. FROST—Will the hon. gentleman tell me how many millions the Grand Trunk Railway has paid within two or three years for double tracking its line?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I do not know how much.

Hon. Mr. FROST—They have expended fifteen million dollars.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The Grand Trunk Railway may have been doing a great deal,