

Then the hon. gentleman from South Oxford referred to the coal land, and takes the ground—which I think, perhaps has a good deal in it—that unless these coal lands are the only anthracite coal areas in that district, we ought to make some arrangement for buying them out. All I can say to the hon. gentleman is that these people have paid \$14,000 for 1,100 acres of coal lands. They got this land when this was all coal area, and before there was any question of it being a national park at all, before the making it into a national park was in contemplation. But I cannot quite understand how the hon. gentleman can reconcile himself with his friends, who oppose any expenditure whatever in connection with the national park, when he suggests that we should actually enter into negotiations with these people who have bought these lands at large prices, and who, evidently, considered them valuable. They have made some expenditure, I do not know to what extent, but they have taken some coal out of the mines—he thinks we should enter into negotiations to buy these coal areas back. We may have the power under this Bill to regulate the manner by which the mining shall be carried on—the surroundings and everything of that kind—but to undertake to purchase it back again would be a very serious matter indeed. In relation to the timber question I may say, as I said this afternoon, that if we can arrange to exchange these limits for others, or in some other way release the park altogether from the presence of those leases, that course may hereafter be considered necessary. The hon. gentleman says I have made no statement as to the terms of the leases to persons who have erected hotels. Dr. Brett in company with some of his friends has erected an hotel at a cost, I am told, of between \$30,000 and \$40,000. A suggestion is made that some ex-member of Parliament was interested in that expenditure. All I can say is this: I do not think it can be held to be a ground of complaint against Dr. Orton that he has joined with another gentleman to spend \$30,000 or \$40,000 for the erection of an hotel in that park, if it shall turn out, as I can assure hon. gentlemen it will turn out, that he will get no concession or advantage not given to any one else erecting an hotel, for the privilege will be given to whoever is willing to erect an hotel there, having regard to the general areas set apart for that particular purpose. These terms were not agreed upon for this reason: I thought it very much better to wait for a while and study a little more what rental we should exact; but there is a condition in the permission given to Dr. Brett for his building, that he shall pay whatever rental may be hereafter determined, and that rental shall be paid from the commencement—that is for the land on which the hotel is situated and two or three acres round about used for pleasure grounds. The same course will be pursued in regard to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's hotel; they will have to pay the same rental. In order to have no difficulty as to the possession of the springs themselves and the water flowing from them, if hon. gentlemen will look at the report of the Department of the Interior they will find that as far back as the 30th June of last year an Order in Council was passed as the result of the report made by Mr. Hall, Secretary of the Department, in respect of the management of the Arkansas Springs, in which we laid down the terms on which persons could get the use of the water of the Banff Springs. Those terms are the terms in existence to-day, and whatever person may go there and erect an hotel will be compelled to pay for the water on those terms. The question behind that, respecting the power the Government proposes to obtain under this Bill, to decide as to what shall be charged to the public per bath and matters of that kind, are subjects of consideration at this moment. Then as to the town site on the other side of Bow River, which has been laid out, and the cost of survey of which is part of the expenditure made. We have offers in two ways, either to sell or lease the town

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell).

lots. The plans have only been got out within the last day or two, but my own feeling is strongly in favor of leasing in order to retain absolute control of the character of the buildings erected and the general conduct of affairs near the park, the object being if possible to make the park a model as to the general character of its surroundings, and that can only be secured by leasing rather than by selling lots to parties who, under those circumstances, might put up such buildings as they thought proper. I venture to think—of course I may be wrong—that within a year or two hon. gentlemen will find that instead of this national park being a burthen to the country, we will be deriving revenue from those leases and from the springs that will quite compensate us, and will certainly pay liberal interest on all expenditures we have made in connection with it. It is not altogether a one-sided matter. My anticipation is, that we shall not only have a park with these advantageous surroundings but that the result of dealing with the property as is proposed will be to furnish a revenue quite sufficient to defray the expense of supervision and management, and also pay a liberal interest on all the expenditure we have made in connection with it. As to the expenditure for the future, the suggestion is made that the park will cost \$200,000 or \$300,000; but there is no intention to make such an expenditure, and in the meantime we are simply making a small expenditure for the purpose of carrying out those improvements which were necessary to bring the park into a condition to be of use and advantage. That is not the only park that we have ventured by Order in Council to reserve. We have reserved others, but have made no expenditure on them, for the simple reason that they required no expenditure to bring them into use, in the meantime at all events. We had no less than four forest reservations through the mountains, and my impression is that they will prove advantageous not simply as large groves of fine forest trees in parks of which we ought to be proud, but they will be of advantage to the country in regard to its salubrity, and so far as the grazing areas are concerned these groves will retain the moisture and prove of great utility. One word as to the constitutional question raised. I accept to the fullest extent the general view laid down by hon. gentlemen opposite that it is undesirable for the Government to expend money without the consent of Parliament. Parliament ought to have, and in fact has control over every expenditure. But there is just this point in connection with the matter: I looked upon it—I may have been wrong, and it is evident I was wrong—but I held conversations with some hon. gentlemen opposite, with public men and others outside of the House on both sides of politics, and I never heard a suggestion from any one until it was made in the House to-day, that it was not an exceedingly wise act to reserve this national park and to utilise at the earliest possible moment the results which must flow from its reservation and improvement. We are living in a time when even a period of twelve months is a matter of consequence. The Canadian Pacific Railway had just been completed. Last year when Parliament was in session I confess that so far as I was concerned I knew comparatively little about the park, although I had been at Banff. Our object was to obtain the report of the gentleman placed in charge of the works there. He was selected because he was considered eminently qualified for work of that kind. He is a civil engineer and a clever landscape architect, and he has proved by the work done to be quite equal to the promises I had of him when appointed to the position. The expenditure I admit has grown, for the idea at first was that probably \$5,000 or \$6,000 might have been sufficient. But this Parliament the Session came on late. If Parliament had been called in January we would have been able to obtain the vote of Parliament for the \$31,000, the amount of the latest warrant used in connection with the bridge and other works of that kind, and have secured their