

Alaskan route running straight through Canadian territory to Teslin Lake. Mr. Corthew has been exploring for eighteen years in that section. He says there is no short cut. Sixty miles inland on the route which will be accepted, they discovered vast deposits of quartz. Several tons were brought home and assayed \$50 to \$500 in mineral, mostly copper. The route to Teslin Lake is through a valley, sparsely timbered, almost as level as Broadway, New York. The valley is without doubt the old bed of the Skeena River. Game is abundant and whitefish block the stream in season. Already the Canadian Pacific have applied for a charter to run a road from Ketimat to Teslin Lake. The official report will be out in one week. It will mention this route as the one chosen, and millions of dollars will be spent in opening it up. An ocean liner could anchor within a stone's-throw of Ketimat.

And inquired whether the surveyors above named made an examination of the route to the Yukon for the Canadian government? If so, has a report of such examination been made, and will it be submitted to parliament, and when?

Hon Mr. MILLS—I may say, on behalf of my colleague, that there has been no examination made of the route to the Yukon for the Canadian government, and there is no report to submit.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—These men were not employed at all?

Hon. Mr. MILLS—No.

CENTRAL CANADA LOAN AND SAVINGS COMPANY'S BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. MACINNES moved the second reading of Bill (B) "An Act incorporating the Central Canada Loan and Savings Company." He said: The purport of this bill is to empower the company to do business in the Dominion. At present it is confined to the province of Ontario, and the object of the bill is to give them power to extend their business throughout the Dominion generally. The bill contains all necessary provisions for the protection of the creditors of the company. It appears to me to be a perfectly legitimate bill, and there cannot be any reasonable objection to it.

The motion was agreed to.

MR. FARRER AT WASHINGTON.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. MILLS moved that the Senate do now adjourn.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Before the House adjourns I should like to call the attention of the leader of this House

to a paragraph which has appeared in the newspapers purporting to come from Washington, in reference to some negotiations which have been going on before a Committee of the Senate, in which a Mr. Farrer appears to have taken a very prominent part, and from the tenor of the telegram one would suppose he was there as a representative of the government of Canada. I scarcely conceive it possible—though I know that this gentleman is on very intimate terms with some of the hon. gentleman's colleagues—that a man who was detected some years ago in a secret correspondence with leading members of the Senate of the United States, suggesting to them a mode by which Canada could be coerced into asking for annexation, and suggesting to them how they might obtain concessions from Canada of rights which Canada enjoys under the treaty of 1818, and other treaties between these two countries. I do not know that my hon. friend would object to my putting this question without notice, for I take it for granted that it being so plain and simple a question—the answer to which is Yes or No—he would have no objection. I am desirous that this country should know whether the government has employed Mr. Farrer as their agent to negotiate terms of reciprocity, or to make any suggestions as to what they, as a government, are prepared to concede in return for favours and privileges in the Yukon district. The telegram which appeared in the newspapers, dated Washington, Feb. 18th, reads as follows:

Edward Farrer, of Toronto, is here in consultation with Senator Hansborough and several other members of the Public Lands Committee, in regard to bonding privileges at Wrangel, which the Alaska bill refuses unless the Dominion government rescind the monopoly given to the Yukon Railway.

Mr. Farrer addressed the committee and made a very plausible case. With regard to the refusal of Canada to permit American fishermen to ship their catch free of charge in Canadian ports on the North Atlantic, in his opinion the Canadian government would agree to the appointment of an international commission to provide for the uniform administration of the bonding system on the North Atlantic as well as on the North Pacific. He added that it would be all the better in his judgment if the commission was given authority to deal with reciprocity of trade in one of the two leading natural products like coal, barley and pulp wood, and also in one or two lines of manufactured goods.

I do not know that I should have called the attention of the Senate to this, were it not for the remarks made by Mr. Hansborough, when the question was before the United States Congress, as to the adoption