

you have information, that are put down as mineral areas and which are more or less large. Then there will be outside of that some timber areas, and I would like to know what amount there will be outside of the agricultural, grazing, mineral, and timber areas which would probably go as waste lands which could not be counted on at the present time and may not be counted upon as much in the future. The hon. Minister of the Interior must have that information, of course, and if we had these areas we would be able to tell a little better in reference to this resolution, so long as it has been put upon the ground of compensation for these lands, if a fair division has been made with the provinces. I dare say the hon. Minister of the Interior has that information now. If he has I would be very much obliged if he would give us that information before we take up the clauses of the Bill. We will get as much as we can while we are going through the resolution, and I have no doubt that will leave a large surplus of information to be brought down when we come to take up the clauses after the resolutions have been passed.

Mr. OLIVER. I think perhaps the hon. member (Mr. Foster) might have saved himself a good deal of argument if he had been in a little sooner. There is no question before the committee of calculation in regard to the land at all. The clause to which the hon. member objects my hon. friend the Minister of Finance has proposed to amend so that that question does not arise. I do not know whether the purpose was to avoid such trouble as that which has come to the mind of the hon. member, but whatever trouble there may be attaching to the Bill, it does not attach in any way such as he suggests after the amendment proposed by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance has been made. In regard to the specific question the hon. member has asked as to the amount of grazing, timber, mineral, agricultural and waste land, I do not know exactly the basis upon which he asks that question. If the hon. gentleman were very well acquainted with the conditions in the Northwest Territories, he would know that it is entirely a matter of opinion as to whether land is purely grazing land, or purely grain growing land, or purely timber land, or purely mineral land. These are all questions which are decided ultimately by experience, and in the meantime they can be only matters of opinion. No white man has ever explored a great part of that country, and so it would be impossible to give the definite information which the hon. gentleman asks. As to the part of the country which has been explored I can bring ten different men to give ten different opinions as to whether a certain piece of land is purely grazing land or purely agricultural land. Some of the timber speculators in this city and vicinity can bear testimony to the fact that land which they paid their good money

for as timber land is not timber land at all, and the same may be said with regard to mineral speculators. If the hon. gentleman means that he will prevent the Bill passing until definite information is given him on this point, it simply means that the Bill will not be permitted to pass at all, because it would be impossible to give such information. If he will be satisfied with a fair estimate made by the officers of the department he can have that estimate at the earliest possible date.

Mr. FOSTER. We all know that until a man has exploited a certain area of land he does not know what it is best suited for, and that no information with regard to such a matter can be absolutely accurate. What I wanted was an approximate estimate, and in looking through the papers I find that the Surveyor General has given an estimate of the lands suitable for grain growing, the lands suitable for grain growing after irrigation, and the lands suitable for ranches or other description of farming, so that in reality there is a pretty fair idea given as to the information I wanted. The only thing that is not given is the area of waste lands, and that I suppose can be ascertained by deducting the areas mentioned here and the area of water from the total area.

Mr. OLIVER. Does that estimate include the organized districts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Assiniboia, or does it also include the district of Athabaska which is now included in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta?

Mr. FOSTER. It gives the areas in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and I suppose he means all that is included in these provinces.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. What does my hon. friend mean by 'waste lands'?

Mr. FOSTER. Such as are not timber, mineral, grazing or agricultural lands.

Mr. HAGGART. Lands unfit for settlement.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand that there is very little waste land in these provinces which would not come under one or other of these descriptions mentioned by the hon. gentleman. In Manitoba there was a good deal of swamp lands, but I am told by the members from the Northwest that there are no swamp lands in the new provinces or only a very insignificant quantity.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Deville has been a long time surveyor and I would rather have his estimate so that personal views may be eliminated as far as possible. I understand that the minister will get that information with respect to Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Mr. OLIVER. Certainly.