

the most important rivers which have their sources in the United States, one of these is the St. Mary and the other is the Milk river. Both these rivers have their sources in the United States and run into our territory, and from these rivers we derive the water which will be required to irrigate those lands.

Now, when we started to do this, and to draw water from the Milk river which runs for over 200 miles in our territory and then finds its way back again into the United States, the American government found fault with us for doing this and difficulties arose. I wish now to draw your attention particularly to this fact, because in my opinion it is one of the most important features connected with this Bill. When the American government found out that we undertook to draw water from this river they said it should not be done. They sent delegates down here to the Dominion government to protest against our doing anything of the kind and said that they owned these waters themselves inasmuch as the source of this river was in the United States. If we had the provinces owning the so-called arid lands, and they undertook to draw water from these rivers about which there is dispute, we would not be able to handle the difficulty in the same manner as we would if it was owned by the Dominion of Canada alone. How does the matter stand? When they found that we were going to take water from the Milk river they protested against it and said that they had a prior claim themselves, because they had undertaken to draw water from the sources of these rivers. Then they proposed another scheme, that they should dam the water of St. Mary lake and Milk lake and then by increasing the water hold it there, draw it through the Milk river through our territory and get a large quantity of water to supply the valleys of the Milk river in Montana with water. When they tried to arrange that matter with our officers the scheme fell through. Then the secretary of the interior of the United States took the matter up along with the present president of the United States, and intimated that he would pursue a more vigorous policy, and that they would guard their own interests. The result is that \$1,000,000 was set apart by the United States government in order that they might dam the waters of these two lakes in the United States, and then if no arrangements could be made with the Canadian government whereby they could take the water through the Milk river and into the United States in Montana, they would take the water and divert it from our rivers entirely, bringing it into one of their own streams, the Cut Bank creek, and then into another the Maria river, and then dig a canal and take it through the lower waters of the Milk river to supply their own territory with water, depriving us of our supply. Now you see here

Mr. WRIGHT.

is the very important feature of this matter and it is necessary that we should guard against any difficulty of that kind. They now propose that Mr. Grunskie, a reclamation engineer shall inspect the sources of these rivers, inspect our irrigation arrangements in Canada and then report to the United States government who shall see what terms they shall mete out to us. We are all anxious—I am, and I believe every one is—that we should live on friendly terms with the United States, but you know, and the House knows, that the United States has not always treated us in the most friendly manner possible. You must bear in mind that they purchased the Alaskan territory, not because they wanted that territory, not because they had any necessity for it themselves, but because they wanted to deprive us of as large a portion of the seashore on the Pacific as they possibly could and prevent us having any harbours on that coast if they could avoid it. We have not treated the United States in that manner I can assure you. When they had their civil war we sent at least 30,000 of our men over there who fought for the freedom of the United States under the Stars and Stripes, and to-day the bones of hundreds of our brave sons lie bleaching on the plains of Tennessee and Kentucky, where they died fighting for the cause of the Union. And when the American government wanted to bring armed troops through our territory from Detroit to Buffalo we allowed them to go over our old Great Western Railway without any trouble whatever. On the other hand, when we had our little difficulty in the Northwest and wanted to take armed troops up through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, how did they treat us? They said: No, we will not allow you to take armed troops through our canals. The consequence was we had to debark our troops, convey them across the portage, and embark them again causing great inconvenience, expense and delay. That is the way we have treated the United States. Now you know how the American government is trying to treat us. If they propose to treat us in the same manner in this case as they have done on previous occasions, I think it is time to look about and to see if it is not advisable that the Dominion government should own these lands, so that if difficulties of this kind arise as they are almost certain to, we would be in a position to handle them without any trouble, and instead of the United States government having to treat with two or three provinces in the Northwest it would be able to treat directly with the Dominion government and we shall see that our rights are properly protected and that no undue advantage is taken of us by the United States.

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to ask the Minister of the Interior if he can give us