

Mr. FOSTER. It will not take Mr. Deville long to do that.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. This discussion indicates that the time has come for a better system of book-keeping in reference to the public lands of the Dominion. When one comes into a rich heritage the first thing he does is to take stock, and it is high time that the Dominion of Canada should take stock of the actual land it has in the Northwest, with its possibility value and its possibility for utilitarian purposes. In that way we will gradually collect a lot of useful information, and the time has come when no alienation of public land should take place and no grant should be made to any one without our knowing what we are giving away. The province of Ontario has alienated its Crown timber lands without keeping any account, so that now they do not know what the residuum is, they speak of it as wilderness and all that, but they should have an exact account kept of it in the provincial legislatures just as the Dominion legislatures should have an accurate account of the lands we own in the Northwest. I would suggest to the new Minister of the Interior that he should take steps to have a reliable system of book-keeping instituted in this respect. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, whether all the patents have yet been issued to the Canadian Pacific Railway for their land grant?

Mr. OLIVER. I have been only a day or two in the department but I have made inquiries on this matter, and I will be able to answer the question in a few days.

Mr. TURRIFF. The patents have not all been issued. There is a large amount of the land that has been selected by the Canadian Pacific Railway scheduled to them, but the land is not yet surveyed and the patents are issued just as quickly as the land is surveyed and the patents approved. In the meantime they have selected the land.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. It is unnecessary to say at this stage of the discussion that we on this side of the House are very much opposed to the Dominion government obtaining the lands in the new provinces. I wish to point out that the returns do not appear to have been brought down in such shape that one can possibly arrive at a conclusion as to the basis on which the government have proceeded. In the returns that were brought down the respective areas were given of the districts of Saskatchewan, Assiniboia and Alberta, but nothing was said of Athabasca, which is to be taken into the new province. It is almost impossible to figure from these returns just what the area is of the respective provinces. I have been attempting to do that, and I arrive at these figures, that there are in the proposed province of Alberta 249,000 square miles, and in the proposed province of Saskatche-

Mr. OLIVER.

wan, 258,400 square miles. In the province of Alberta we practically have 159,000,000 or 160,000,000 acres. Why, then, are these calculations to be made on the basis of only 25,000,000 acres? No reasonable explanation has, I think, been given of that, and yet the right hon. the First Minister tells us that there is no waste land in Alberta or, practically speaking, in Saskatchewan either. Why, then, should the estimate be made on only 25,000,000 acres, when we have in Alberta alone, practically speaking, 160,000,000 acres? From the return it is impossible for us to find out how much land has been alienated from the province of Alberta. This return shows the number of acres alienated within the districts of Saskatchewan and Assiniboia, but it does not tell us what proportion of this has been taken out of the province of Alberta or the province of Saskatchewan, and it is practically impossible for any man to work out any calculation without having this information before the House. With regard to the question asked by the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster), a number of reports have been made as to that country by different surveyors, which would furnish very valuable information to have before the House while this discussion is in progress. But what I object to particularly is the attempt to withhold these lands from the new provinces; and then, if they are to be withheld, we desire to know what compensation is to be given to the new provinces for them. I have been endeavouring to figure out just what was allowed to the province of British Columbia for the 20-mile strip on either side of the Canadian Pacific Railway track, which was alienated for railway purposes by the Dominion government, and, according to my figures, I find that there is annually paid to the province of British Columbia the sum of \$100,000 for lands that were handed over to the Canadian Pacific Railway. Estimating the area of that 20-mile strip on either side of the Canadian Pacific Railway track, we find that this \$100,000 is paid to the province of British Columbia for practically only 13,000,000 acres, whereas, in the new provinces, we are not getting one-quarter the compensation, and even when our population is doubled we do not get one-half. What I desire to point out is that the land in the province of British Columbia is land taken along the railway track, a great part of it in country which is practically worthless, and yet a much more liberal allowance is made to the province of British Columbia for that land which was taken away from it than is being made by the present administration for land that is just as much taken away from the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. I find that these figures for the area of this land in British Columbia work out as follows, taking the line as straight between the different points: Stephen to Beaver foot, 22 miles; Beaver foot to Beaver mouth, 42