

ment and hon. gentlemen opposite. It is simply a question of size and degree, of how large the grant ought to be. He did not suppose that any hon. gentleman would stake his reputation as to the exact size of grant the Government would be justified in making. In making comparisons with other countries there are many circumstances to be taken into consideration. While 46,000 acres might be indefensible in some countries, it would not be at all large in other countries. The gold mining belt of northern Ontario extended for a thousand miles, and only two millions of the thirty-five millions of acres have been prospected. He was glad that the Government had protected the interest of the prospectors, on whose behalf such a cry had been raised, but he had been informed by an experienced gentleman that there is not a single known mine in northern Ontario that had been discovered by a white prospector. In every case the original discoverers had been Indians, who sold their knowledge for a small sum. The Government had taken a little risk in entering into this transaction of giving hon. gentlemen opposite an opportunity of making capital for a short time out of it, but when the country realized the special circumstances surrounding this transaction they would agree that it was for the public good. With reference to the policy to be adopted regarding future applications he thought the Government might safely be allowed to deal with them. Hon. gentlemen opposite had not always opposed concessions to syndicates. The party which they supported as voters at Ottawa had made great concessions to the C. P. R.; of large grants of land to colonization companies; for small considerations to Sir A. T. Galt and his coadjutors, and they had never raised their voices against it. It is only when it happens that an individual belonging to the Liberal party is interested in a syndicate of this nature that a perfect storm of malice is heard from hon. gentlemen opposite. Hon. gentlemen opposite are treating this whole matter in a partisan way for the purpose of making political capital. The confidence of British capitalists in Canadian investments had been shaken by the unfortunate investments in Grand Trunk Railway stock, in the Chignecto Ship Canal, in which project they embarked on the advice of Canadian officials; also in the phosphate mines, from which they had never received any return. He had not expected that hon. gentlemen would take up the matter in the narrow spirit of colonialism and localism, which is responsible for the position they occupied, in relation to this transaction. He hoped that the people of Toronto would be far-seeing enough to make Toronto the Denver of the Province of Ontario, and that the far-seeing, sagacious business men will not follow hon. gentlemen opposite in this matter, but would endorse the policy of the Government. He did not represent a great metropolitan city, but a rural constituency such as the remarks of hon. gentlemen opposite were intended to appeal to, but he was satisfied that the people of the Province believed that the Government at the opportune time did a most advantageous thing for the people of this country. He moved in amendment to the amendment:—"That all the words after 'that' where it first occurs in the amendment be struck out and the following substituted:— 'And while approving of the said agreement this House is of opinion that in view of the vast extent of Crown lands in this Province which are wholly or in part unexplored, and whose value notwithstanding that large tracts lie within the boundaries of the mineral-bearing formations, is almost altogether unknown, and having regard to the desirability of interesting British capital, enterprise and skill in bringing to light and developing the latent mineral wealth of the Province and the substantial benefits which the discovery of new gold fields and the speedy establishment of a permanent gold-mining industry would confer upon the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests of the Province, the arrangement entered into between the Government and Colonel Engledue and his associates is one which, while furnishing adequate safeguards for the public interest, will bring about the thorough exploration of a considerable area of Crown lands at no expense to the public, and lead to important and beneficial results to the mining industry and the Province at large.'"

ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY

Dr. Preston intimated to the hon. member for North Oxford that members of the Opposition were quite willing to accept the responsibility of their record. If it became necessary to do so every member of the Opposition was ready and willing to stand up and defend the policy of the friends at Ottawa while in power. The hon. gentlemen opposite were premature in their claims that the transaction was going to bring British capital into the Province. He took the Government to task for the action taken in connection with the dispute between Mr. Caldwell of the Sultana mine, who was, he asserted, deprived of his water lots adjoining the mine being only allowed 300 feet from the shore line, the land covered by water beyond that line being granted to Mr. Fraser. The hon. gentleman dealt with this question at length, entering into the details of the dispute and the negotiations in connection with it. Referring to the personnel of the Engledue syndicate, he pointed out that among them is Mr. J. K. Kerr, the same gentleman who some time ago admitted having suppressed correspondence intended for the House. The agreement is unfair and unjust to the mining people of this Province, and to the prospectors who want to make their living in Canada, by giving an advantage to the men who came from across the water.

THE PATRONS APPROVE.

Mr. Haycock said that it appeared to him from the debate that the question before the House was not so much what people were doing in mining in Borneo, in South Africa, in New Zealand, in Australia, in British Guiana in Venezuela; nor are hon. gentlemen so much interested in what the Hudson Bay Company did for us three or four years ago, nor in Fraser and Caldwell, nor what became of the lands which were given away by the Government at Ottawa. But it is rather whether the transaction with the company, of which the documents are before the House, is or is not in the interests of the Province of Ontario. Proceeding to the consideration of the terms of the contract he pointed out that the syndicate pay \$20,000 cash for the right to prospect certain portions of territory. After they have prospected they will have to buy the land they want at the same terms as anyone else. But they say if we strike something of value some other fellow may be watching us and want to get ahead of us, and we want to be protected. It had been stated that they would not give up, but it must not be forgotten that under no circumstances does the syndicate get their deposit back. It may be applied in payment for lands that they desire to take up. The deposit meant that the company had been required to pay in advance for 13,333 acres of the grant without knowing whether there was really any mineral there or not. Then the company also agrees to spend \$120,000 in development work in three years. There is only one thing he had to regret and to censure the Government for in connection with this matter, and the only improvement which he could suggest in the next contract, and that was that in giving possession of large tracts of lands only alternate miles be given, the balance being reserved for the Province. Then if any great or valuable mining discoveries be made the Province would derive the benefit of the discoveries. He believed it would be as good a mining policy as the Government could adopt to accept the offer of every responsible syndicate upon the same terms as the Engledue syndicate with the amendment suggested by him. If there were 50 of such syndicates formed there would be a cash revenue of \$10,000,000 to the Province, and \$60,000,000 would be spent in the development of the mines. It seemed to him that the Government should not stop at Col. Engledue's syndicate, but should adopt the principle in their treatment of all other offers from responsible syndicates. Mr. McPherson spoke upon the necessity of developing the mines of the country. It would lead to the immigration of many people and the introduction of much capital. He heartily supported the motion, because the arrangement could not but be beneficial. If no mines were discovered not a dollar would be lost to the Province while if mines of great value were discovered it would increase the value of every acre of farm land in this Province by \$5. and would increase the