

extent of that settlement and the qualification for citizenship in this country possessed by those who are coming, we will leave the future to decide. I am by no means certain that the progress which has been made there will be as advantageous to the country in the end as the accession of other classes of population would be even in less numbers. The speech contains a paragraph with reference to the canals upon which I do not find it necessary to say more than two or three words. It is the self-glorification of this government with regard to the deepening and widening of the great canals. As my hon. friend the leader of the opposition pointed out to the House by the clearest array of figures, against which nothing can be said, which cannot be gainsaid, a vast proportion of that work was done by the late administration, and that the present administration had done very little more than to see after the completion of contracts which were let before they came into office, and at best was merely putting, as it were, the last touch upon plans upon which their predecessors had long and faithfully worked out.

There are three or four sections, as hon. gentlemen will have noticed, in this speech that relate entirely to the war in South Africa. Let me remark, in the first place, that hon. gentlemen in the government appear to have been under a somewhat mistaken impression. They say that during the recess hostilities have unfortunately broken out between Great Britain and the South African Republic. In my innocence I thought that Great Britain was in a state of war with the Orange Free State as well as Her Majesty's government in Canada appear to realize only the fact that we are at war with the Transvaal alone. I suppose it is possible we have all been in error on this subject, and that the government are right. With regard to that war and the causes which led up to the conflict, it is not necessary that we should discuss them very much on the present occasion. It is enough, as has been stated by some leading public men of Canada, to know that the British Empire is engaged in a very severe struggle in which its prestige is at peril, and that being so, it is our duty to hasten to the defence of the empire; but as intelligent citizens, it is important that we should not allow our people for a mo-

ment to lose sight of the great and important fact that this war has not in any respect whatever been forced on the republics of South Africa by the British government. A careful perusal of the documents that have been issued on this question will convince every person that this is not a war that Great Britain has sought, that, on the contrary, every possible care was taken by the government of Great Britain to prevent any legitimate or reasonable cause for war. To my mind, this great struggle—all this expenditure and this loss of blood and whatever humiliation is involved in recent British disasters, and whatever risk or danger there may be at this moment to British prestige—I have no hesitation in saying that all this is due to the surrender in 1881 by Gladstone's government, when they withdrew from their occupation of the Transvaal. They created a deplorable impression in the minds of the Boers that they were able to defeat the British, to such an extent that from that day forward there has been a growing idea in the minds of the Dutch population of South Africa in the direction of overthrowing British power in that part of the world. I have not the slightest doubt that that is the case, and although it may be enough for us to know that our cause is right in this matter and that our country is in peril and without inquiring too much into the cause we know very well the truth that lies in the words of our greatest poet, that he is 'thrice armed who hath his quarrel just.' We know that our quarrel with the South African republic is right, and that fact strengthens the arms of our soldiers and the councils of our country, and will ultimately help to bring victory to the British arms. In 1877, the British government, I think I am right in saying, on the invitation of the people of the Transvaal, sent Sir Theophilus Shepstone into that country. At all events, it was no invasion of that country. He had less than a score of a staff with him on that occasion, and the people received him with acclaim—at all events without any strong expression of dissent. They allowed British arms to be used to protect them against the natives, with whom they were waging an ineffective war. They accepted salaries from the British government, amongst the salaried officers being Kruger himself, and after all this,