

and advantages of a fast line between Canada and Great Britain.

I am very glad to know that the population of Manitoba and the North-west is increasing. I would much rather, however, that it was settled by different classes of people. I am also pleased to know, if it be correct—and I have no reason to doubt, from what the hon. gentleman says, that a large number of those who went to the United States are coming back, and I am more pleased to know that it has been the policy of the Conservative party to assist to the fullest possible extent in bringing back those who went to the United States. I am more gratified than ever to know that in no instance, either with the public man or with the public press supporting the Conservative party, have we ever denounced that country and said that it was unfit for settlement, as did the hon. gentlemen when we were governing the country, and endeavouring to settle it with the best class of people. We never held up Kansas as superior to the North-west.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Neither did we.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It would be just as well if the hon. gentleman had not contradicted me, because it may possibly lead me to speak at more length than I intended. Does the hon. gentleman pretend to say that the United States railways did not circulate extracts from the Hon. Edward Blake's speech with his picture—

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Hear, hear; I have one of them here.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Upon their show-bills, and send it through Europe, in which Kansas was extolled as far superior for settlement to the North-west Territories. Does he not remember that the late Alexander Mackenzie denounced that country as unfit for settlement, and does he not know that it was obliterated from the *Hansard* after consideration, knowing the effect it would have upon the country, and the settlement of that province. I have been in parliament a number of years; I have a tolerably good memory, and I remember distinctly the speeches that these gentlemen made, and the denunciations which were hurled at the Conservative party for spend-

ing money which would have the effect of opening up and developing that country. The Canadian Pacific Railway system was condemned in the same manner by these gentlemen. They declared that it would never pay for the grease that would be necessary to oil the wheels. They declared further that the ties of the eastern section would be worn out and rotten before you could lay the ties at the western section of the country. It was declared to be the ruination of the whole country. It was declared that the whole wealth of England could not build the road within the time in which the government had contracted to build it. I am glad to know that all these prophecies have proved false and of no avail. The great safety of the west, the knitting together of the different provinces, has been done through the means of the Intercolonial and the Canadian Pacific Railways. In other words, British Columbia would have been a mere appendage of the United States to-day, instead of being an integral part, and one of the most valuable, of the Dominion of Canada. The whole policy of the government was, at that time, a profession or a belief, that what the Conservative government was doing was inimical to the interest of the country, but when they came into power they were obliged to adopt, to a greater or less extent, the policy of their predecessors, for which, I repeat, as I did some time ago, I compliment them. I compliment them in the interests of the country, but not on the integrity of their party professions. I repeat, I hope the country will go on prospering just as it has been prospering in the past, no matter who governs the country, and as long as we have addresses as unobjectionable as this one, I do not know that we have any great cause of complaint. We are met together at the present time, as indicated by the hon. gentleman, in the beginning of a new century, under a new sovereign, and after a new election. The hon. gentleman referred to the result of the election. That is a prolific subject, a very important subject—the mode and manner by which that election was carried, I shall say nothing about, other opportunities will present themselves. I congratulate myself, however, upon the fact that the people in the province in which I live were actuated by principle and not by race cry or anything