

district could be reached in a few hours, and Quebec is within a week's sail by fast steamers from the British islands, so that we have here a large habitable territory which may be opened for settlement, and made easily accessible to immigrants from Europe. One of the advantages offered by this region to the settler is the fact that, notwithstanding its present wild condition, it is well understood that law and order prevail in every part of the Dominion, and that life and property would be as safe in this district as if it formed a part of England itself.

Before the reading of the paper, the Chairman (Admiral WHARTON) said: We are very glad to welcome here to-night a fellow-Englishman from the great Dominion of Canada, of which we are all so proud as an offshoot of our vast empire. He has been journeying in a part of that vast country not so very far from civilization, but which has rather strangely up to the present day been very little known, and which has proved a very interesting country indeed. I will call upon Dr. Bell to read his paper.

After the reading of the paper, the following discussion took place:—

Colonel HARRIS: It is with great pleasure that I have heard the paper read by Dr. Bell. It may not be known to many of you that in this hall in 1881 Dr. Bell read one of the most important papers ever published, and I recommend any of the Fellows who may be interested in Canada to go to the library and read that paper. With an enlightened mind, it shows the capabilities and wonders of the Dominion of Canada, and it was published in October, 1881. Dr. Bell is not only eminent as an explorer, but he is also eminent as a geologist. To-night we have heard of these great rivers which run into St. James bay, and thence into Hudson bay. In the paper read in 1881 he clearly demonstrated and showed that this was navigable for commercial purposes. Many believe that Hudson straits and bay are frozen over and perfectly useless for commercial purposes. If you read that paper you will alter your opinion; you will be able to see that these rivers he has spoken of are open to the sea, and can be made commercially valuable. He has told us to-night that the immense forests adjoining James bay clothe this land which he thoroughly explored. Tens of thousands of acres of this magnificent timber can only be made use of by bringing it to England or other places by water. If I am wrong the Doctor will soon set me right. It was only three days ago I read a paper showing the actual work done by Dr. Bell. It said his thirty years' work was now bearing its fruit. In speaking of the mineral riches of Canada, Dr. Bell, as a geologist, has done a great work, and to prove this assertion let me read this report, dated Ottawa, 23rd of last month. "The mineral output of Canada last year was \$23,427,000, an increase of \$1,500,000 over the previous year; the value of the Dominion production has doubled during the last ten years." Dr. Bell has done a great work for Canada as a geologist and explorer; and when you look at him now after thirty years' exertion, I don't think you will find it has done him much harm. I delight to meet him to-night, after many years' hard work for the benefit of mankind. I am sorry time does not permit him to go into the advantages of these rivers flowing into Hudson bay for the conveyance of metals and timbers. I would like to know from him to-night whether he has the same opinion as he had fifteen years ago—if Hudson bay is navigable and Hudson bay is useful for the purposes of navigation for the benefit of mankind.

Dr. BELL: I should have been pleased to speak more at length on the subjects referred to, but did not wish to detain this audience. However, as Colonel Harris