

ment and which up to the present time have been in force in relation to the staking of mineral wealth and of the natural resources of our provinces, where those resources are still under federal jurisdiction, are not up to date, nor are they the wisest laws that could be enforced under the conditions as they now exist. I would therefore suggest to the Minister of Mines and to the government that during this session, before the staking rush begins in that part of the Dominion for the ensuing season, they endeavour to formulate the most suitable laws and regulations in order to give to that country the best government possible. We in Ontario have had a good deal of experience with mining laws and we have been able to cope with many great rushes in different parts in the north of the province. In northern Quebec also there have been some big rushes in the staking of claims, and the mining act of that province has very successfully met the situation that has developed there. In my opinion our Ontario mining act is probably one of the best pieces of legislation of the kind, if indeed it is not the best, in Canada or for that matter anywhere in the world, and I do not think that this government would encounter any difficulty in drawing from the acts of these two provinces such regulations as would take care of the situation in the part of the country I have been speaking of, with a view to obviating as far as possible litigation and disputes generally that must inevitably arise in connection with every mining rush.

I do not think there is much more I want to burden the house with. I feel that we in Canada to-day are living in the most favoured spot on earth. With our great agricultural wealth, our vast forest resources, our enormous hydro potentialities, our good climate and the unbounded possibilities in minerals—the greatest possibilities of mineral wealth of any nation in the world—we have every reason to be proud and happy. I am sure that all Canadians must take the keenest pleasure in the realization of the resources available to us to-day. When we look back over the pages of history we find that from the earliest recorded times the nations that have become supreme and that have maintained supremacy have always forged ahead because they have had hidden treasures in minerals to supplement their other resources. This has been so throughout the ages. Until the Armada, Spain had scoured the seven seas in search of precious metals. Then came the Spanish Armada and England wrested the supremacy; and she has retained her supreme place since that time because of her possession of mineral wealth. To begin with, she had coal and she

developed her iron and steel industry, in which field she has long remained in the forefront. Is it not a gratifying reflection that we in this part of the empire should possess mineral resources which will be available for centuries to come? We can picture Canada in future generations, indeed, centuries from now, playing an exceedingly important part in helping to maintain the supremacy of the great commonwealth of nations to which she belongs. The British Empire has been supreme on land and sea, commercially and in every other way, and it is the fervent prayer of every Canadian that she may long continue to maintain her position. And in the maintenance of that supremacy, in the interests of humanity, Canada will be an important factor. This country is destined to play a vital part in holding the empire together to the end that her benign influence may spread to the furthestmost corners of the civilized world and that peace and Christianity may everywhere prevail.

Mr. W. E. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): The amendment moved by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) to the budget which has been brought down by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb), has failed, and naturally so, to enlist the support of gentlemen on the government benches. However, it has attracted keen interest in all other sections of the house and national concern throughout the Dominion at large. When we carefully consider the activities of this government since it came into office in 1921, and since it was given a new lease of life after the last election, we cannot but regret the absence of any sign of stability of purpose or principle in the economic management of the affairs of this Dominion. After the government's long term of office, it would seem that the ship of state to-day is merely drifting aimlessly, without any apparent course. The present government has depended very largely on the whims of fate, as members of the administration have said on different occasions. Providence has been indeed very kind to them. Listening to the hon. member for South Timiskaming (Mr. Lang), who described the greatness of the country in its natural resources, I could not help thinking that it was indeed fortunate for the Dominion that our heritage was so vast and our harvests so bountiful; because had this country not been so blessed in natural endowments, so favoured by Providence in natural conditions, the people could not have prospered as they have done under so weak an administration as that which now governs the affairs of this Dominion.