

year. They are satisfied with the country, but disappointed, after digging for water, not to be able to get it. It takes money to build a dam, though some of the people built dams last year; but a great many are not able to do so, and any assistance that the Government could give to supply water that way would be a great benefit to the North-West and to the whole country, because as the North-West prospers so will the Dominion prosper. I wish the hon. gentleman therefore would add Assiniboia to his list, because in the section that he refers to there are no people, except those who are engaged in ranching. Down at Wood Mountain, where there are some half-breeds, there is plenty of water, but out West there are no people, and his inquiry is not as applicable to that section as to the country I have been speaking of.

HON. MR. POWER—I desire to express my surprise that the hon. gentleman who brought this question before the House should have done so in the way he did. Of course, as the hon. gentleman from Lunenburg remarked, a portion of the speech of the hon. gentleman from Burlington would serve as an antidote to the poison contained in his notice; but unfortunately this notice, in one form or another, has been on the paper several weeks; and in its original form it was calculated to leave the impression on the mind of any person not as well informed as the hon. gentleman from Lunenburg or the hon. gentleman from Assiniboia that all through our North-West Territories people could not live, unless they were furnished with water by artificial means. I think that is a most unfortunate circumstance; and I am pleased, as a humble representative of the Liberal party, to think that notice has not been given to the world by a member of the party to which I belong. If it had been given by a member of the Liberal party I have no doubt the hon. gentleman would have been one of the very first to denounce the unpatriotic conduct of that party and to state that it was in keeping with their conduct through a long series of years. I must say this for the hon. gentleman from Lunenburg, that he is always consistently patriotic. He has always maintained that Canada was the finest country in the world, that her hills and her people—no, I shall not say her people, but her hills, at any rate, were the

greenest, her soil the best, and her crops the biggest in the world; and the hon. gentleman is consistent with himself. He says, and he says truly, that our North-West is one of the finest countries in the world, and that it is not necessary that those works should be undertaken in order to enable people to live there. The hon. gentleman from Assiniboia confirmed the statements made by the hon. gentleman from Lunenburg to a very considerable extent; but I was rather surprised to hear from him that the ground was so hard out West that one could run a locomotive over it without breaking through the crust.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—The sub-soil, he said.

HON. MR. POWER—I understood that the hard soil was very close to the surface. One good effect the inquiry of the hon. gentleman from Burlington has had is, that it has given the House the very valuable information communicated by the hon. gentleman from Assiniboia. I feel this way about the matter: that there are several millions of acres of good arable land in the North-West, land which calls for settlers, which is ready for settlers to-day; and I think our wisest plan is to let the settlers come in and settle on the land which is fit for cultivation; and when that land is exhausted, or nearly so, then it will be time enough to spend money to fit by artificial means lands for settlement. We should not resort to artificial means until they become necessary; and I hope the hon. gentleman from Burlington, if he will excuse me for saying so, will be more cautious in the future how he gives notices like this, which are calculated to damage the character of Canada all over the world. I do not mean to say, as I presume would have been said if this notice had been given by myself, that he is in league with the enemies of our country or acting in the interest of Yankee speculators, with a view of deterring people from settling in the North-West. I do not think the hon. gentleman intended to do anything of that kind; but the wording of his notice is calculated to have that effect. I hope that the Government, who are truly patriotic, if the hon. gentleman from Burlington is mistaken in his ideas of patriotism, will show their patriotism by declaring that our North-West is nothing of