

in Great Britain. That is really what is meant in the paragraph in the Speech from the Throne. I might go further; our militia has not been enrolled for a good many years on account of the expense attending the enrollment of the forces. I do not pledge myself to this, but it may be just possible that enrollment will take place, not for any warlike purposes, but in order to ascertain what our strength is, as defined in the Militia Act. Should difficulties, internal, or external, arise, the country should be in a position to know the numerical strength of the militia, and what they could do to defend the Dominion. I believe I am expressing the feeling of the people of this country of all parties, with very few exceptions, my hon. friend among them, but I should be very sorry to suppose that the body of the party which my hon. friend leads here hold sentiments in accord with his own, and I hope that in this instance, as on the Manitoba school question, and one or two other matters, he speaks for himself solely and not for his party.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I spoke only of fortifications; I made no reference whatever to the militia.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It is a part of the defence. First of all we had a regret that there was any reference to it in the Speech. Then we had a hope expressed that there were to be no fortifications. I should be glad to have fortifications every 10 miles if we had the money to build them. They certainly could do no harm. We will do the next best thing—make the militia as good as we can, and then, if necessary, we will expend money on strengthening the fortifications, but I hope there will be no necessity for anything of the kind. I concur fully in the hon. gentleman's remarks with reference to His Excellency the Governor General and the very great interest which he takes in making himself thoroughly acquainted with the resources of the country in more ways than one. He has given evidence of his sincerity in this particular by the fact of his investments to a very large amount, and it is gratifying to see the results which are following from those investments. It was my pleasure, during the past year, to visit the large estate which His Excellency holds in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. Though I had read of those British Columbian valleys, I had never visited

any of them before. I had been on the Pacific coast, but it had never been my pleasure to go into the interior, and I can only express my astonishment at the fertility of the soil in those sections which I visited. It convinces me that while British Columbia may be one of the most wealthy provinces in minerals and timber, it possesses also large areas of agricultural country not excelled on any part of this continent. His Excellency's farm gives further evidence of this fact that the soil is capable of producing to a marvellous extent almost all the fruits that are consumed by the human race, except those which are grown in the tropical and semi-tropical climates. British Columbia bids fair in the near future to be the home of a large population. If we had men who would invest their means there, as His Excellency has done, it would do much to induce the people in the overcrowded portions of the world to emigrate to Canada and settle where they would find not only a pleasant climate but homes where they could live in comfort and provide livelihoods for their families. I am very much pleased to know that my hon. friend has found so little to criticise. I feel quite certain that if it were not considered the bounden duty of the leader of the opposition to find some fault and do a little scolding—I will not say growling, because the hon. gentleman did it so pleasantly that no one could take exception to it—we should have heard no adverse comments. Let me hope that in the future he may have as little fault to find with the administration of the affairs of the country by a Conservative government as he has found to-day. We will go on and prosper—there is no doubt of that—unless unfortunately my hon. friend and his party should happen to cross the floor of this House and the destinies of the country should be placed in their hands, a contingency which I am sure he himself, upon mature reflection, would deeply regret. Let us join together in wishing happiness and prosperity to the people of this country. As long as it is governed as it has been during the last seventeen years, I have no doubt of the results which will follow, and my hon. friend and his sons will be proud to know that they are Canadians, more particularly when they reflect, as he has done, that a great many years ago conservatism was the very best possible policy on which we should govern the destinies of any country.