

will bear me out that I did not paint to them a too glowing picture of the prospects of that country. To-day, I am happy to say, the situation is different. I can speak with assurance that the existence of a very highly mineralized area has been demonstrated; no failures have been encountered. Everywhere that development work was undertaken in that area rich high-grade permanent mines have been established and the returns have been highly remunerative. The population of that section of the country has greatly increased and the general population of Yukon Territory is also increasing. Prosperity is returning and the people are filled with an optimism for the future. That is the condition of affairs in at least one section of Canada.

Now just a few words to give a general idea of that country. I find that the members of the House of Commons are, after all, just representative Canadians, and that the average Canadian has a very hazy idea of conditions in that northern section of Canada. That is not to be wondered at, in view of the unwarranted quantity of slush that has been published on the subject, some of it very readable, highly entertaining and unduly sentimental, having somewhat the same effect in conveying ideas of the country as the eloquent language used by the mover of the Address here a few days ago in regard to the Acadians and their unfortunately necessary removal from the land of Evangeline. Doubtless those and similar ideas were founded on or greatly influenced by the picture so beautifully painted in that poem of Longfellow's, written, in my opinion, on false premises and by no means conveying a correct impression of actual conditions in that place at that time. Beautiful to look at, but not quite accurate. Many people associate the Yukon only with the Klondike gold excitement of a quarter of a century ago and think of it as a land of icebergs and fearful hardships. Most of those yarns of hardship were told by early gold-hunters, and more recently by globe trotters seeking to attract attention to themselves. I will give the House an instance. In 1914 at Dawson I met a lady going through the country on the ordinary tourist's trip. She had come up the coast in one of those palatial coast steamers operated by the Canadian Pacific Company. She had crossed the pass in an up-to-date observation car and come down the river in a very comfortable passenger steamer. She was well received and accepted the hospitality of the people. In 1917 I heard her addressing the Royal Canadian Institute in London,

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and I was astonished to hear her state that she was the first white woman who ever made that trip, as late as 1914 and when in fact thousands of women had preceded her to that country. She told of the perils of crossing the pass. She did not mention the observation car, but she stated that on going ashore at the very peaceful town of Port Simpson she was obliged to fly for her life to escape from hostile Indians. Of course such a thing never occurred; you could not blame the Indians if it had. I have told this story just to show how these yarns are started. The Yukon is the extreme northwestern point of Canada. Its northern boundary is the Arctic ocean, on the south British Columbia, on the east the Northwest Territory and on the west Alaska, that long strip or pan handle of Alaska that cuts us and a large portion of British Columbia off from the sea. The Yukon has no seaboard except the Arctic ocean. Everything taken in or out of the Yukon must pass through Alaska either through the port of Skagway at the head of Lynn canal, that wonderful arm of the Pacific ocean, or around by the coast of Alaska to the Bering sea and up the Yukon river from the port of St. Michaels. Owing to international bonding privileges, we have not suffered up to date any great inconvenience because of having to pass goods through the United States territory, but at the present time a rather awkward situation exists in that regard.

Yukon handles the liquor question much as it is handled in the province of Quebec, or, perhaps, more correctly stated, on the same system as British Columbia. It abolished the bar; it allows no private sales of liquor. The local government sell it all, and do not permit liquor of any kind to be sold in the hotels or restaurants. They differ from British Columbia in that they are willing to stick to the goods of the Old Country distillers. They do not try to put off on the public any home brew of the local commission as liquor. The United States interpretation of the Volstead act prohibits the transportation of liquor across any part of the United States, consequently they block the Canadian government in Yukon from taking liquor into that part of Canada. It is an arbitrary stand not taken for cause so far as Yukon is concerned, for the liquors were imported from British dealers, unloaded from British ships direct to the railway cars and within three or four hours crossed the Alaskan pan handle into Canada again. There has been no illicit dealing in Alaska from those shipments, and the United States' laws have been strictly com-