

laws are at least as equitable and as well and honestly administered as in their own country.

Now I am in hopes that with these causes—the removal of the objections or rather of the statement in so great a degree of the objections alleged against the North-West, the greater acquaintance of the rural populations of Europe, more especially of Great Britain, with the North-West and its capacity—will year by year increase immigration and we shall in due course possess the great country there which my hon. friend from Calgary so eloquently described as being justified by the advantages which it possesses. I am in hopes that it will be so, and I believe that it will be so.

With regard to what has been said as to the development of our mineral resources, I think my hon. friend who remarked on that is not keeping himself *au courant* with the progress of events in that respect. We have in the last two or three years made discoveries of various valuable minerals, and those are being exploited to an immense extent both by our own people and by English and American companies. The whole region which has been opened up by the Canadian Pacific Railway north-west of Lake Nipissing, and by the branch from Sudbury, is found to abound with most valuable minerals—copper and, still more valuable, enormous deposits of nickel, so vast that the world at large will be mainly indebted for its supplies of nickel to the territory west of Lake Nipissing. I find so much occasion constantly to applaud what my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island says that I hope that he is not smiling at my statement as doubting it, because I have a personal knowledge that those mineral deposits are of enormous extent and of equally enormous value. These developments are going on; there are similar projects being commenced and proceeded with in the large deposits of the precious metals to be found mainly south of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in the Rockies and Cascades Ranges, and I think the results of these projects will be such as to attract an enormous proportion of the enterprise in mineral matters throughout Europe to this country, and a correspondingly large development of those very large mineral resources.

HON. MR. VIDAL—And coal.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend says coal: I had omitted to notice that important mineral. Undoubtedly we are producing enormous quantities of coal. In British Columbia, the consumers of coal have been largely handicapped by the practical monopoly of the coal supply which exists in that region in the hands of one company or one person, but that monopoly will probably shortly be entirely destroyed by a discovery which has been made of valuable coal lying on the far side of the mountains in the plain through which the great Fraser River passes to the sea, and easy of access to the seaboard and to the growing towns in that quarter. So that also will form a very considerable addition to the development which is going on in the mineral resources of that country.

There are two or three minor points that I would like to say a word about. The hon. gentleman from Halifax is inclined to find fault with the Government for the measure, with regard to the foreshores, which His Excellency has promised. I think the hon. gentleman, of course, only expresses that distrust which he thinks is appropriate on such an occasion to his position as one of the leaders of the Opposition in this House; he did not express any opinion as to what the proposed measure of the Government is likely to be. I only hope that when the measure comes down my hon. friend will not suppose that the Government prepared it in consequence of the suggestion which he has just made. I think my hon. friend will find that it affords an excellent solution of the difficulties which have been experienced in connection with the foreshores question. I do not think my hon. friend will feel that the other party, the Province, will be inclined to introduce a Bill to cancel the settlement which the Government propose to make. There is not the slightest danger that any provincial Government will quarrel with the Dominion Government as to the mode of settlement which is to be embodied in the Bill which His Excellency promises. As to other suggestions which hon. gentlemen have made, that we should endeavor to get some of those commercial measures before the Senate, to have an opportunity of employing our time at the beginning of the Session more usefully than we have been able to do on former occasions, [sympathise very strongly indeed with