

found that it is highly desirable that restriction should be placed on Chinese immigration.

Now, Sir, I started out to show what were the natural conditions in the west and in British Columbia particularly. I wish to show, that the conditions which exist in that province to-day are a crowning proof of the inadequacy of the policy of the late Government. We have enormous natural wealth in that province, but while that is true, it is unfortunately equally true that we have no great measure of prosperity. There are evidences of want and of poverty in the midst of all this abundance and plenty, and it seems to me, that there must be some clear reason why these two conditions should exist side by side. I do not know why there should be poverty in British Columbia unless it be that the Government which has controlled the affairs of this country in the past, has removed the natural advantages of the country from the grasp and control of the great majority of the people. What is true with respect to British Columbia is true also of the North-west Territories and Manitoba. There are in those parts of our Dominion immense opportunities for people to take up homes, and live a happy and prosperous life. They have rich and fertile prairies enormous in their extent and wonderful for their fertility of soil. But Sir, as you know, Manitoba and the North-west Territories are not populated. You can travel for hours through that country without seeing the hut of a settler, and the whole of that vast domain is almost as virgin as it was when the buffalo roamed on the plains. It was in connection with this portion of Canada that a certain gentleman who stands very high in political circles in Canada, made wonderful prophecies which earned for him the name of the great stretcher. But, Sir, so far as any prophecy he has indulged in with respect to the North-west and Manitoba is concerned, that prophecy does not entitle him to any such distinction. If the existing condition of things in that country is ridiculously different from what he prophesied, it does not prove that he was a great stretcher. It, however, proves what is more important, and that is, that the policy which he and his colleagues sought to inflict upon this country was utterly inadequate for the development of Canada, and what applies in that regard to our western country is in a sense true of the whole Dominion. Ours is undoubtedly a rich country, rich in natural resources, rich in the fertility of its soil and rich in its mines. Our people are energetic, economical and persevering, and let me ask why it is, that in view of all this, poverty and depression exists? Why have some of our people to make such a desperate struggle to gain a miserable existence? Sir, I think there can be but one reason and only one reason, and that is, that while the opportunities of this country are great, and while our natural ad-

vantages are enormous, it has been rendered possible for these advantages to be cornered by a favoured few. While it is said by some that a Government cannot cause depression or prosperity, I consider, Sir, that in so far as the late Government has fostered a system of monopolies in this country, which turned from the grasp of the people the blessings which nature conferred upon them, they are responsible very largely for the depression which has existed in Canada for the last few years. Sir, some of us—and some of the hon. gentlemen possibly on the other side of the House, may have doubted a short time ago that there was any depression in this country; but since we have won our seats we can no longer think that, for I do not suppose that there is a member here who has not been deluged by applications—in many cases from men of culture, refinement and ability—for some miserable petty position. Is that not an evidence that the existing conditions of things is such that the people wish to flee from this struggle for existence?

But I was speaking of monopoly, Sir. I said that the Government had created and fostered monopolies in this country; and the placing of all the opportunities for wealth in this country in the hands of these few monopolists is the reason why prosperity has not been very general among our people. Just look at that for a moment. You will see that every condition to the gaining of an existence in this country is characterized by monopoly. Our whole land system—without entering into a discussion of Henry Georgeism—is based on the principle of monopoly. We will not discuss that matter; but the late Government aggravated the prevailing condition of affairs by giving enormous grants of land to people to hold at their own sweet pleasure. For instance, in giving to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company that magnificent heritage in the North-west Territories, they have done an enormous injury not only to the present but to future generations. I say, then, that the land, as a condition of existence, is monopolized. Look at the different branches of trade, and you will find the same condition of affairs. The National Policy undoubtedly fostered monopolies which could not have existed but for the enormous protection granted them. Look at the means of conveyance in this country, and you will find them also in the hands of monopolists. So I say that every condition to an existence—land, trade, means of conveyance—is monopolized, and it is for that reason, I say again, that the opportunities afforded by this country have not been enjoyed by the people as they should have been.

These monopolists have run this country so long that, like all people who rule a country for a considerable length of time, they have become impressed with the idea that it was their natural right to rule. They became so strong and powerful in the country that they not only controlled its com-