

but, upon those who have thrown it before us must be the responsibility and it is upon the party which the hon. gentleman so ably leads in this House that the responsibility must rest.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Oh, no; The Manitoba government are not our party.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—It is not the hon. gentleman's fault, I admit.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I have never hesitated to lash the Manitoba government whenever I have had the opportunity. I think they are the ones who are responsible for the trouble. I have never hesitated to say so.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—True, they have the honour, if it is an honour, to belong to the party of which my hon. friend is so distinguished a member. With my hon. friend's remarks, so far as I could hear them, in reference to the fast line of steamers and to the Pacific cable, I heartily agree. The time has come when Canada cannot afford to be behind any other country in the development of its trade and commerce. Cable communication between Canada and the outside world is absolutely necessary to the proper success of any commercial enterprise. There is an old adage that trade follows the flag, but to-day trade not only follows the flag, but its success demands that there should be cable communication between the producing and consuming portions of the world. Otherwise, commercial enterprise cannot be successful. I could give illustrations of this if it were necessary. I lay down the broad principle that such is the fact, and if Canada desires to keep pace with the rest of the world, she must have the means, not only of reaching the different markets wherever they may be, but also the means of instantaneous communication with all parts of the world in order to take advantage of the markets as they may exist. I very much regretted to hear my hon. friend's remarks with reference to placing the militia force in a better state of efficiency than it is to-day.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I did not refer to the militia; I referred to the defences.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman spoke of the paragraph

in His Excellency's speech and regretted that it was there, and then inferred that it meant the building of fortifications along our frontier.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—"Strengthen our defences," is the term used.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—That is the line of argument that the hon. gentleman used—he regretted that the paragraph was there, and then said if it meant erecting fortifications or strengthening the defences along the frontier, it was to be deprecated as a great mistake. I agree with the hon. gentleman that it is desirable that peace should prevail between the United States and Canada. I agree with him that considering the relations between England and the United States—considering that they are of the same races and that the commercial intercourse between them is so vast and so valuable, that war between the two nations is almost impossible. But while I admit that fact, there is no reason why we should not keep our forces in as efficient a state as the finances of the country will justify. I am glad to know that there is a spirit not only of patriotism but of rivalry in patriotism among the young men of the rising generation in this country. The older the country becomes, and the more important the position that it occupies among the nations of the world, the more patriotic will our young men become, and the best evidence of it to-day is the fact that we have thousands of offers from Canadians in all parts of the United States to return to Canada should their services be required to fight in defence of the old flag. I agree with my hon. friend in believing that the fortifications at Esquimalt should be strengthened, because they would be a protection to the Pacific coast of the Dominion if we had difficulties with the United States, and would be of much greater importance in case of war between England and Russia or any other of the nations of the world. The intention of the government, I may say, is not to expend large sums of money in building fortifications along the frontier. The old system of fortifications, as the hon. gentleman well knows, would not be suited to modern warfare. The intention is to place our militia in as efficient a condition as is consistent with our means, by supplying them with the very best arms produced