

than it would have been had the same policy been adopted then that has been adopted by the present Postmaster General. When the deficit was reduced to a comparatively smaller sum than three or four years ago, the expense of carrying the mail into the Yukon country was charged to the mounted police, who did the duty, instead of being charged to the Post Office Department. With book-keeping of this character you can have a surplus in any department at any time, if when you spend the money you charge it to another department and take credit to your department for what you collect.

I should like to have seen a reference made to the last South African contingent. We know that there was a good deal of higgling about its being raised. There was a good deal of objection on the part of the government to pay any expenses in connection with it, and there was a stipulation, if I am correctly informed, and if the newspaper reports be correct, that they refused even to do that until the British government conceded the right, while we were paying nothing, of appointing all the officers who received commissions in that contingent. But there is nothing said about it. Perhaps any reference to it in the Speech from the Throne might be taken by the Minister of Public Works and by those who think and act as he does, as establishing another precedent. I can say to the hon. gentlemen opposite that so far as the people of Ontario are concerned, I voice the opinions of the people of Ontario when I say that if the government would come down, with the plethora of money they have at present, and say they would pay every dollar of the expense of the last contingent, it would be approved by ninety-nine per cent of the people. It would be a credit to Canada, and while Canada stands very high in the estimation of British statesmen and of Europeans generally at present, from the course she has pursued in connection with this unfortunate South African war, if we came down and said to the mother country, 'we are prepared not only to place our young men at your disposal, but we will pay their expenses,' it would place us in a still better position. That is the feeling I entertain, and I think I hold it in common with 999 out

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

of every thousand who live in the province from which I come.

Having said this much, I now turn my attention for a moment to the address. I need scarcely say that every one will concur in the thanks to Divine Providence for the blessings which we have received during the last year, and more particularly for the bountiful harvest in Manitoba and the North-west Territories. It is this harvest alone that has done so much to increase the immigration into this country. It is to the output of Manitoba and the North-west we may give credit for the influx of large numbers of people now going into that country, and I hesitate not to say that I fully approve of the policy of the government in sending men to the United States to try and induce Canadians and others living there to emigrate to this country. The large sales of land by the Canadian Pacific Railway, by the trust and loan companies, and by the government indicate a prosperity unprecedented in that section of the country. Why? The bountiful rains that fell in that country, in June last fertilized the soil and brought forth the crops and did for that country and for Canada what no government, it matters not who they may be, or what their policy may be, could possibly do, and when credit is taken for bringing in these people, hon. gentlemen forget to give the reasons which induced them to come.

The visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, now the Prince and Princess of Wales, was a matter of gratification to every one, and there is no doubt the hon. gentleman who seconded the address spoke correctly when he said that it would open their eyes and give them an idea not only of the loyalty of the people of Canada, but of its great productive qualities. There is no period of the year that they could have visited Canada and gone through the North-west Territories and Manitoba to better advantage than the period when they did visit them. Then they had an opportunity of seeing hundreds of thousands of acres of wheat fields extending for miles and miles as far as the eye could reach. It was my pleasure to go through that section of the country before the harvest. It was my pleasure also to return through that country, and if there is anything that would gladden the heart