

prominent office—that of Minister of the Interior: and it was not very remarkable that, under the circumstances, that the hon. gentleman, filling the important office which he now does, should have been selected to lead the House. I was the more surprised at the attitude assumed by the hon. leader of the opposition, because that hon. gentleman's own experience in connection with the matter of leadership was not such as was calculated to make him disposed to raise questions on that point with reference to other persons. The hon. gentleman did become the leader of the government, as we know, and the hon. gentleman ceased to be the leader of the government which preceded the present government; and the hon. gentleman, it was generally understood, was not particularly anxious to retire from the position of leader, but did so as a result of the intrigues of a body whom he designated as a "nest of traders." There was this striking fact in connection with the way in which the hon. gentleman ceased to be the leader of the government of that day, that he was obliged to commit political hari-kari—he was obliged to commit suicide as a political leader. Under these circumstances, I am a little surprised that he should have raised any question on this subject. The hon. gentleman referred also to one or two matters which did not appear in the speech of the Governor General. One was the cable to Australia, and the hon. gentleman thought that the speech should have contained a reference to it, and his impression was that Canada should take very vigorous measures to secure the construction of that cable. Now, hon. gentlemen, although Canada is interested in the laying of the cable to Australia, she is not nearly so vitally interested in that matter as the Australian colonies or the mother country, and if the mother country and Australia did not think it necessary to proceed with the work, and as far as we are aware we have no evidence that they thought it necessary, I do not think that we here in Canada should be very much disturbed over the matter. I have always felt that when Canada constructed the Canadian Pacific Railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific she had done her duty for some time in the matter of improving communication between the different parts of the empire; and it is for those portions of the empire which are more directly

and vitally interested to devote attention to any further steps that may be deemed necessary.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Is the Canadian Pacific Railway maintained at the government's expense?

Hon. Mr. POWER—The Canadian Pacific Railway is not maintained at the government's expense, but the Canadian Pacific Railway could not have been constructed without a vast expenditure of money and land on the part of the people of Canada. Taking up the speech now, I shall try and deal with some of its paragraphs. It is not necessary for me to deal with the first paragraph, which refers to the political and material prosperity of Canada: and I have already said something about the loan, which is regarded by people who know more about financial matters than I do as being, on the whole, a very satisfactory loan, particularly as it fixes the rate of interest upon our future loans at one-half per cent lower than it had been. The third paragraph, the one which speaks about the jubilee ceremonials and the action of the Imperial government in denouncing the treaties with Germany and Belgium, deserves all the consideration it has received. There were distinguished men, leaders from all parts of the empire, gathered at the capital to do honour to Her Majesty on the occasion of her diamond jubilee, and amongst all the colonial and Indian magnates who were present on that occasion, I think I am safe in saying that no one man attracted such attention from the press and from the people who were gathered there as did the Premier of Canada. I do not think I am saying too much when I say that, next to the Queen, our Premier was the central figure of the Jubilee celebration. This was, no doubt, largely due to the action of the Canadian Parliament in deciding to give a preference to British goods in our market, but it was also due in a large measure to the personal qualities of the Premier. On every occasion—and he was to the fore on many important occasions—he bore himself in a manner which was calculated to impress favourably those who met him and listened to him, and to awaken emotions of pride in his fellow-countrymen. I may say, hon. gentlemen, that in no case was this more conspicuous than in the case of the speeches which the hon. gentleman delivered in France. No particular refer-