

of June last year I found it with the first flower expanded at Aylmer, Que., nine miles from Ottawa. It happened that Mr. Tyrrell's brother, James Tyrrell, was out on the hillside at Dawson on the 2nd of June, and he found the same species in flower there, one day earlier than it was here. To me it was an enlightenment. . . . I found the rose hips red and getting ripe when I thought they would be only starting in bloom. That gave me something to think about and I turned to Mr. Tyrrell, and I said: "Mr. Tyrrell, what is the cause of this flower blooming earlier here than in Ottawa?" Here is his answer. He said: "Mr. Macoun, it is the long day and the great amount of sunlight."

The Rev. Father Albanel in the Relation tells us of roses blooming on the 15th of June. That was written 225 years ago, while in the last twelve months we have the statement of an officer of the government to the effect that 1,200 miles north of this city roses bloom earlier than in Ottawa. Is that information worthy of being presented to this House as a reason why we should proceed with the construction of this road? Are we to conclude that because roses bloom 1,200 miles north of here rather earlier than they do in Ottawa, the climate is less rigorous than it is in this older and more settled part of the country? My hon. friend the Minister of the Interior, however, tried to come to the assistance of the right hon. the Prime Minister and gave us some little information which he thought we were not fully in possession of when the House prorogued last October. He sent an officer of his department to the office of the Grand Trunk Railway in Montreal a few days ago and obtained from the Grand Trunk Railway authorities some information as to the character of the country between North Bay and Winnipeg. The hon. gentleman made his speech in the House on the 6th instant and the information he gave was obtained by him only the day before. It was obtained by his geographer and official, Mr. White, and obtained by him in a hurry. I need not take up the time of the House by reading that information which was procured in a hurry. The document from which the Minister of the Interior quoted was dated April 5th; his statement was made on April 6th. It was thus made in a great hurry and without much deliberation. But I would draw the attention of the Minister of the Interior and his colleagues to the fact that similar information was given this House by my hon. friend from East Toronto (Mr. Kemp) some seven or eight months ago. Where did he obtain that information? In September last the Toronto 'News' published the result of the survey made by the Grand Trunk engineers of the country between Winnipeg and the eastern border of New Ontario. The very identical information, to all intents and purposes, which the Minister of the Interior presented us the other day, was given, in the shape of a newspaper clipping taken from the columns of the Evening 'News,' by my hon. friend from East Toronto in September or October

Mr. CLARKE.

last, so that the only further light which has been thrown on the route, regarding the accessibility of the country, is the information gleaned from the Jesuit Relations by the right hon. the First Minister and that obtained by the Minister of the Interior from the Grand Trunk offices in Montreal. These gentlemen, who were so anxious that not a moment should be lost, allowed six months of the best twelve months of the year to elapse without making the slightest effort to secure the exploration and survey of the country through which the eastern division of this great Transcontinental Railway is to run. Why, they have not had sufficient energy and patriotism—if the statements which have come to us from time to time are correct—to see that the large number of employees who are being engaged by the Grand Trunk Railway in the surveying of this country are Canadians instead of aliens. Surely the least we might have expected is that since this is to be a national undertaking, since the people of Canada are to pay practically the entire cost of it, Canadians would not be discriminated against in favour of aliens. At prorogation, when the business of last session was concluded, the following words were put into His Excellency's mouth by hon. gentlemen opposite:

It will be the duty of my ministers to proceed immediately with the necessary surveys, so that the work of construction of that portion of the line from Moncton to Winnipeg may be prosecuted with all possible speed.

Were these hon. gentlemen romancing when they asked His Excellency to make that statement? Were they acting in good faith with the people whom they addressed through the mouth of His Excellency when they told them that no time would be lost, that the work of making surveys would proceed immediately, so that the construction of the eastern section of the transcontinental line might be prosecuted vigorously? Sir, actions speak louder than words, and the people of this country will judge hon. gentlemen opposite by their actions and not by the words which they may address to us either in this House or throughout the country.

My hon. friend on my right, and with whom I am associated in the representation of West Toronto (Mr. Osler), has been called severely to task by hon. gentlemen opposite because in the heat of debate he made use of the word 'fakir' in connection with some gentlemen interested in the carrying out of this scheme. I am sure that my hon. colleague needs no certificate from me. His record in this House is the best answer to any charge that he ever wilfully or wantonly insulted any hon. gentleman in this House or out of it, or that he is capable of any such conduct. I am perfectly satisfied that if that word was used by him, it was not used with the intention imputed by hon.