

whereas two years ago the prospectors brought out a few little bits of gold, samples to lay before investors, at the present time there are mines in operation which this year will contribute to the wealth of this country, I believe, upwards of \$10,000,000. When it is considered that this is only one small section which contributes that wealth to the Dominion, with no more mines in operation than can be counted on the fingers, and when we can state it as an assured fact that there are a dozen centres of equal importance to Kootenay, which will undoubtedly spring up within the next few years, the House will begin to understand the tremendous importance this industry will assume in the near future in British Columbia. But if we are to derive full value from the gold industry in that province, I suggest as worthy of the consideration of the Government, the establishment of a mint in that province. It is a peculiar fact that all other colonies of the Empire have mints, where they produce their own currency; and although from a commercial standpoint it would undoubtedly be advantageous to British Columbia to have a mint there, yet I think there are considerations of a more national character which will commend this suggestion to the Government, and I hope they will see that it will be in the interest of that industry to establish a mint, and that there is no place more suitable for the establishment of that institution than British Columbia. There is another report going the rounds of the press just now, I observe, and that is a suggestion to establish a Department of Mines. This suggestion if carried into effect would have a tendency to stimulate gold mining and other classes of mining in British Columbia. In this connection, of course, there can be no doubt that if that department were established, British Columbia would receive Cabinet representation, as undoubtedly the portfolio of that department would almost as a right belong to that province; but whether we receive Cabinet representation in that way or not, I hope the importance of giving British Columbia representation at the Council board of this Dominion will not be overlooked. In British Columbia we regard this representation now as a matter of right. Whether you compare our population and our representation in this House with those of other provinces, or whether you regard our province and our right in this regard from the revenue producing standpoint, we are more than entitled to Cabinet representation compared to some of the other provinces. But, Sir, if you consider the influx of population which undoubtedly will pour into that province in the near future; if you consider the difference in the conditions of life in that province, as compared with the conditions of life in the east; if you consider, above all, the great future which is before

Mr. McINNES.

that province, I think all hon. gentlemen will agree, that British Columbia should receive proper recognition from the rest of Canada. I am pleased to know that the interests of my province are being considered by the present Government, and although the late Government did make a step towards recognizing the rights of British Columbia, I am glad that the Liberal Government is preparing to give them a fairer and a fuller recognition. Sir, I spoke of the influx of population which will undoubtedly flow into the province of British Columbia. There can be no doubt about that, because there is nothing which draws population and immigration to a country like the glitter of gold. We rest assured in British Columbia that come what may we will have a large population, and because of this certainty, we are not perhaps so much interested in the question of immigration as are other parts of the Dominion; for instance Manitoba and the North-west. Different policies of immigration have been spoken of, but it seems to me, Sir, that the best immigration policy is a policy which will promote natural trade conditions. It seems to me preposterous to speak of introducing population into this country when the conditions of life are such that our population will not remain with us. When the conditions are such in this country, that we cannot even retain our native-born population, what is the necessity for spending large sums of money in endeavouring to induce people from the old country to come here. We want to make the conditions of life in Canada easy for our people, and so attractive that when immigrants come here they will remain with us. Our country is a grand country, capable of maintaining in prosperity millions of people. Good wine needs no push, and, Sir, if the present Government—as I have no doubt they will—if they establish trade conditions over this country which will promote prosperity, there will be no trouble about the immigration question. Might I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to refer to a phase of the immigration question which particularly concerns my own province. This particular class of immigration to which I refer affects British Columbia more than it does any province in the Dominion. I speak of the immigration of Chinese. I shall not weary the House with any extensive references to this question to-day, because it will undoubtedly be brought before your attention in a more particular manner before the session closes. However, at the present time, I wish to take this early opportunity of expressing my confidence that this Parliament will recognize that the importation of hordes of Chinese coolies such as are coming to British Columbia at the present time, is detrimental to the best interests of that province, and, Sir, I hope on an early occasion to show that if you regard this matter from a national standpoint as well as provincial, it will be