

expect. Let me say that, although no reference has been made in the Speech from the Throne to the expected surplus, I sincerely hope the time has passed when the Minister of Finance of this country will speak to us of surpluses that we know are buried every year in that bottomless pit which is called the Intercolonial Railway, or in other capital accounts. Let us, this year, at any rate, when surpluses are spoken of, know where these surpluses are that the people shall not be deceived any longer. I merely intended to point out some of the subjects upon which I think the public of this country—and we come here under considerable trouble—might have expected some utterance from the government. But we have ample proof, I think, that the Speech from the Throne has been prepared most hurriedly, from the fact to which I wish to call particularly my right hon. friend's attention, that there is no translation of that speech into the language which is most familiar to a large number of the members of this House, because I cannot call it a translation which has appeared in the 'Official Gazette,' and which is so full of errors. I heard with pleasure the eloquent treatment of the French language by the hon. member for Beauce, and I could not help regretting that he himself had not been charged with the translation of that important document. We had with us yesterday a number of gentlemen who do not belong to this country, and who represent foreign countries, and I think it is right and proper to say to the government that a document of this kind which is so largely circulated, should be translated properly. We hear a great deal sometimes about murdering the King's English, but I say that this is a most felonious assassination of the beautiful language of Molière and Racine, and it is very necessary that the party who has been charged by the government with translating that document should know that if it is necessary, we will bring the guillotine from France and chop his head off. With these few remarks, and with the hope that, although the session may be short, we will have from the government some positive statement of its policy upon some of the important matters to which I have had the honour to refer, I resume my seat.

At Six o'clock House took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at Eight o'clock.

Mr. WM. F. MACLEAN (East York). Mr. Speaker, I intend for a short time this evening to direct the attention of the House to one or two things mentioned casually in the Speech from the Throne, but things which I consider are of the greatest importance to the people of this country. In the speech of His Excellency there is a reference to the assassination of President

Mr. MONK.

McKinley. That was an incident that did attract the attention of all the world, but somehow to my mind there was a disposition in the United States and elsewhere to avoid the discussing of this question in the light of the real cause of the assassination. Contemporaneously with the assassination of the President there was a significant thing happening in the United States. There was a growth of trusts, a growth of monopolies that was unprecedented in the history of the world. Now not for one moment do I say in so many words that the assassination of President McKinley was connected with the growth of these trusts, but I do say that it is a significant fact that the two things were contemporaneous, and that there may be a connection in the way of cause and effect between these two. Last year the growth of monopolies reached its height in the United States. The development of trusts attained its greatest and most dangerous strength, and this development is a cause of the greatest anxiety and fear to those who are really studying political and social questions, not only in this country but in other countries as well. And what are these trusts doing? They are in the way of getting control of all the great railways; they are getting control of the great systems of transportation, and they are getting control of all the great industries. They have become so powerful that individuals who are really anxious for the welfare of the country begin to fear for the future. These trusts are sacrificing the interests of the people, and while I do not say that there was a direct connection between the growth of these trusts and the assassination of President McKinley, I do say that at that very time the public mind was alarmed as never before by the growth of these corporations which seemed to presage social disaster to the nation. If you want a specific instance of the growth of these corporations and the tyranny they exercise, I direct the attention of the House to the output and distribution of coal in the United States. If there is one blessing more than another that God has conferred on the people of this continent, it is a supply of coal sufficient to enable the people to have it put in their houses for \$1 per ton. But this great coal supply has fallen into the hands of the coal companies, allied with the great carrying corporations, and the result has been that the coal is now sold at the enormous price of \$4, \$5 and \$6 per ton when it should be sold for at most \$1.50 per ton.

These huge corporations have become tyrannical in the treatment of their employees. As I said in Toronto a short time ago, they have become so tyrannical that an employee of theirs dare not confess at the present day that he is over 40 years of age. As an illustration of this kind of tyranny I may mention that the sale of hair dye in the United States is now something enormous.