

governments, will have sufficient force of character to hold the contractors to their agreement, and compel them to fulfil its terms. I am not socialistic enough to adopt all the theories that have been advanced with reference to the ownership by government of railways, telegraphs and other conveniences of that kind, but I must make an exception of this cable. The reason why I think it should be owned by the government is, that it will be of inestimable value if difficulties should occur between Great Britain and other countries. They should have full possession of it in order to prevent, as far as possible, any information being given to others than those to whom it is sent. Had the cable to South Africa been in possession of the Imperial government during the last year, I venture the assertion that they would have saved enough money, in the cabling done, to have almost paid for the laying of a new cable. Governments have adopted that principle, which, I think, is the correct one, for the reasons I have given, and I hope it will be successful.

I am very glad to know that His Excellency the Governor General has visited the North-west. It is not the first time that His Excellency has been there. He was in the North-west with General Middleton, when the difficulties arose there, and did his duty as a soldier. His visit to the Yukon must have been a benefit, not only to himself, but to the government. We have nothing, however, in the address which indicates there was any dissatisfaction with the mode of governing that country when His Excellency was there, nor are we told that he was presented with a bill of grievances. Probably we may, before parliament rises, know what has been done to remove those grievances, and to dispel the dissatisfaction which he found to exist in that country, as represented by the addresses which were presented to him. We can scarcely expect, however, and perhaps it would be too much for me to ask if that matter has been considered. We shall find that out before the session ends, in all probability. Be that as it may, it is gratifying to know that the outcome of the wealth of that country is growing larger every day, and as people become acquainted with the mode and manner of extracting the wealth

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from the soil, just so in proportion will they succeed and just so far will it be gratifying to those in the older provinces.

I shall say very little about the Paris exposition. Most of us will be better prepared, when the Auditor General's Report is before us, to discuss the subject. The question will arise then as to whether the cost in connection with that exposition is commensurate with the benefit which we are to receive. With reference to the St. Lawrence route, I can only infer, from what the address says about it, that they intend to assist in the development of trade by that route by subsidizing steamers, by adding to the cold storage accommodation by which our goods can be taken to the old country in a safer and more perfect state. I can only repeat here what I had the pleasure of stating at a county fair in the province of Quebec in the county of the hon. Minister of Agriculture himself. I congratulated him on what he was doing, and I do so now, and I told his people there—it might have been considered perhaps a little interference—that just so long as he adhered to and carried out the policy inaugurated by the late government in establishing and extending the cold storage, just so long would he be legislating in the interests of the country. And not only that, but many other things in which they have followed in the wake of their predecessors; and as long as they adhere to that, of course we must congratulate them, and that accounts in a great measure for the progress and prosperity of the country at the present day. I shall not indulge in any remarks about the figures which my hon. friend has given. I have a somewhat vivid and distinct recollection, however, that in 1878, when the Conservative party came into power and trade began to boom and surpluses followed year after year, that we were condemned in unmeasured terms for collecting more from the people than the actual requirements of the country, and that we should act in accordance with the principles which had been laid down and which governed English statesmen when they had a surplus, to cut down the taxes. Every paper that we pick up and read, and every speech that we hear from the head of the government to their supporters, is a boast of the great surpluses which they