

of the precious metal. If we remember that this Yukon district, but for its gold, is absolutely barren, and that it does not produce a pound of food, we cannot be surprised that it should have engrossed at once the attention of the Government in order to give it in the first place something like a substantial judicial administration, and then in the second place an easy and speedy means of communication. I thank my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) for his commendation of the efforts put forward by my colleague the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). The Minister of the Interior, at great inconvenience to himself, proceeded at once to the ground to find out what was the best means and the shortest route to obtain immediate access to these gold-producing regions, and he came to the conclusion, which I am glad to say is shared by my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), viz., that a line of railway from the waters of the Stikine River to Teslin Lake would be the most expeditious route, I have seen it stated somewhere that the route should proceed from the interior. I do not say that this would not be a good idea if we were calculating only what should be the ultimate route to be selected. But I do not give this present route from the waters of the Pacific to the waters of Teslin Lake and and the Yukon River as a finality. It is simply a route for immediate communication, and it is intended to provide food and supplies next winter for the thousands of men who will be in that region. That is the object, and the only object we had in view. It was not to establish a perpetual permanent route for a communication which might be more in accordance with the interests of the country—that has to come later. At the present time the only thing we had in view was that the thousands of men who should go into that country the coming summer would not be exposed to starvation next winter, and that there should be an easy and speedy mode of communication to reach that far-distant land.

I shall not now discuss the contract which we made, for it is not opportune at the present moment to enter into such a discussion. Let me say further, that one of the characteristics, and one of the most important objects of the contract which we made, is not only to have a railway communication completed on the first of September, but to have a sleigh road opened by the first of March. That is one of the great objects we wished to accomplish. I shall imitate on this point the action of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), and I shall not discuss the subject further, because as I stated this afternoon, the discussion shall commence not later than Tuesday next.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to say that there is one point, if only one, in which I am able to agree with my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), though he spoke some five or six hours. I agree with him, and most

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cordially join him in the flattering and well-merited compliments which he paid to the mover and seconder of this Address. My hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Bertram) was preceded here by his fame as an orator, and he has shown us to-day that he can discuss all the questions which affect this country of ours, as intelligently as any old parliamentarian could. My hon. friend from Temiscouata (Mr. Gauvreau) has shown us, from the literary speech he has delivered, that we can expect a great deal from him.

My hon. friend from Temiscouata (Mr. Gauvreau) dilated eloquently upon the lessons to be derived from the Jubilee celebration.

The Jubilee celebration was remarkable chiefly for two distinct and characteristic features. In the first place, it was above all things a tribute of devotion and personal attachment to the Sovereign, to the noble woman who during the course of a long life in the most exalted station has ever displayed those qualities which grace her sex, gentleness and generosity, and who at the same time has shown that she was possessed of those sterner attributes which made her the model of sovereigns, as she was already the model of women, and which have so much endeared her to so many millions of subjects. Of all the touching scenes which were witnessed on Jubilee Day, none was more touching than the singularly warm, singularly sincere expressions of devotion, of love, and of affection, which spontaneously went forth to Her Majesty from her subjects in the poorer quarters of the great metropolis.

From another point of view, the Jubilee celebration was as suggestive as it was impressive. It was a revelation of the wonderful development which has been attained by the British Empire, a revelation of its strength, of its extension, of its cohesion. Those who saw the Jubilee procession from Buckingham Palace to the Cathedral of St. Pauls, could not but have their minds carried back to the ancient days of Rome, to those famous pageants where the victorious general ascended the Via Sacra in a blaze of glory and triumph. It was a triumph indeed, was that procession from Buckingham Palace to the Cathedral of St. Pauls; but it was a triumph, how different, how widely different, from the triumphs of ancient Rome. Here was not a warrior coming after a campaign, laden with the gory spoils of many provinces, or many kingdoms, or with thousands of slaves and prisoners fettered to his chariot—the triumphant in this case was a woman, a woman no longer in the flower of youth, but already marked by the hand of time, and in her cortege were the men of many lands and of many religions—men from the black races of Africa, men from the yellow races of Asia, men from the mixed races of the West Indies; Christians, Mahomedans, Buddhists—but free men all. Free