

which have fallen from the hon. gentleman from Queen's (Mr. King), my hon. colleagues will permit me to thank the administration for the honour which they have done me in calling me to a seat in this House, a position which I prize all the more highly because it comes to me at an age which gives me an absolute right to claim your kind indulgence. The government no doubt said to themselves that if youth is inexperienced, it is sufficiently pliable to acquire quickly the two qualities, the two essential virtues of wisdom and impartiality, which alone can obtain for us pardon and lead the public to forget our immovability and our irresponsibility. I have searched the reports of your debates for the past 20 years to find lessons and examples, and I have found the sound traditions and the customs which appear to have had for their foundation a constant respect for the popular will. I intend faithfully to follow the road which you have so well marked out, and in which I am certain we shall not cease to touch elbows. The representative of the Crown has spoken to us of the prosperity of the country. I shall content myself with congratulating the government on whatever share they have had in bringing about general improvement of business. Throughout the country confidence has been restored. Traders and merchants and bankers admit unanimously the improvement in the situation of the finances of the country. Canada has taken a place in the eyes of Europe that the most optimistic could not have dreamed of our holding for at least fifty years to come. The personal influence of the Premier, "the Hon. Mr. Laurier," has been a considerable cause in producing such splendid results. His journey across Europe, thanks to the talents with which he is endowed, had a considerable and beneficial effect for our country. The denunciation of the Belgian and German treaties showed to the astounded world, the power which an autonomous colony is able to exercise when it is guided by a politician who despises the old beaten roads. The placing of our bonds at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, following this event, has shown that the pretentious title given to our country in 1867 was not merely a vain word, and that we are commencing really to be the "Puissance" of Canada. Our Minister of Finance took a momentous step when he presented himself before the financial market of Europe to ask for the same terms as the

richest nations. The stock quotation is the barometer of the confidence in which a country is held. I recall the outburst of enthusiasm provoked in France, in the home of the richest nation of the world, by the news that their 3 per cent bonds for the first time in this century had touched par. That was two years ago. To-day the 3 per cent French bonds are at a premium. That indicates that confidence is absolute, that, thank God, the republic is seated upon a rock, that the republican form of government can no more be questioned—that the republic is immortal. The prosperity of our country cannot fail to grow, now that the European immigrant knows its value, and now above all, that our gold is attracting attention in all countries. It is important that those who come to our country should proceed to the Klondike through our territory; that they should traverse our country to reach Dawson City, and I congratulate the government on having promptly taken the necessary measures to render the Canadian route the easiest. There is a three-fold interest in our having the gold seekers pass through our North-west to reach Alaska. Circumstances have given the United States possession of the mouths of our rivers, and the coast of our territories bordering on Alaska. The immigrant who passes that way is subject to all sorts of exactions if his outfit which he takes with him has not been purchased in the United States. Here is what Mr. Carruthers, of the Pacific coast, says on that subject, indicating the state of feeling in the Pacific coast cities on the Klondike outfitting question :

The Klondike is in Canada; it is most easily reached via Canadian railways and Canadian ports: "Canadian merchants should receive the greatest benefit from the trade that is to be done with the new gold fields. But to reach these fields travellers have to pass over a strip of territory belonging to the United States. The customs exactions enforced there are so onerous, and the cost involved so large, where travellers with Canadian outfits are concerned, that it pays better to purchase supplies in United States cities, and pay the Canadian duty, than to carry through Canadian goods and pay the "bonding" exactions of the United States officials.

If the intending settler chooses the Canadian route, the country will derive a profit from the moneys which he will have to distribute on his way. I want the stranger to have an opportunity to see our North-west plains in order that the prediction, not yet fulfilled,