

round Point Barrow and try to reach the mouth of the Mackenzie River for the purpose of getting furs. That is perfectly absurd, if I may be allowed to use that expression, which is hardly parliamentary. In Hudson Bay the Americans have been indulging in practices in connection with whaling which are highly objectionable, and I think the Government ought to take steps to prevent such practices, as far as they can; but it is perfectly out of the question to speak of anyone ever settling on the barren lands which lie west of Hudson Bay. It is a country that can never be settled. I think the better way for us is to keep settling up the immense country which we have already organized, and which is open for settlement, and preserve the fur-bearing animals and the fish of those northern regions as well as we can without going to any great expense. It was only the other day that I heard the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface intimating that we had already gone too fast, that it would have been wiser to take steps to thoroughly settle Manitoba before we went into what are now known as the North-West Territories. Surely, if that argument was good as between Manitoba and the present North-West Territories, it is still better as applied to the Mackenzie River Basin and those remote regions. The hon. gentleman seemed to look forward to a time when the civilization of Canada would become effete, and the hardy Northmen would come down from the Mackenzie River, and the barren lands, I presume, to save the failing civilization of this region. No doubt the Esquimaux are a very hardy race, but I hardly think we would look forward to their being the saviours of civilization, even in the remote future. I think we have quite enough country to look after now, and we had better not worry ourselves about these Polar regions. Something might be made out of the furs of that country—some revenue might possibly be derived from them, as I notice the American Government does derive a revenue from the furs of Alaska; but we do not find that the United States, with its 60,000,000 of people and a territory almost completely populated, is taking any steps to populate Alaska yet, and I do not think we need be in any hurry about the Mackenzie River country. I am very sorry to be obliged to say anything that

looks like finding fault with or reflecting on the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface. His speech does great credit to his heart, and I know he is most enthusiastic on everything that affects the North-West, but I really feel that he is asking us to go too far when he proposes that we shall take the steps that his resolution indicates.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I agree very much with what my hon. friend from Halifax says, yet I think he has belittled the resources, wealth and capabilities of the Mackenzie Basin when he calls it a frozen region. We know that that is not the case, from evidence, on most undoubted authority, brought two years ago before the committee of which I had the honor of being a member. The accounts of the resources of that country seemed to us to be almost fabulous. We did not know what a great country we possess until we heard the evidence, and I think the Government should do all they can to protect the fur-bearing animals of that region. I do not think that the Government are sending an expedition into that country with the object of organization, but simply to get information, with a view to the better protection of the people and resources of that country, but not to go further than is absolutely necessary to attain that end. At the same time, I do not agree with my hon. friend, that it is unwise for us to let the world know the great heritage we have and the vast resources at our command. We should be proud to publish far and wide the extent of our magnificent resources and the wealth and capabilities of that country, and I think my hon. friend has manifested a zeal worthy of the object he has in view, and although he may indulge in predictions which are visionary when he speaks of a time when the Northmen will be coming down to protect this country, when it shall have become to some extent effete, I agree with him that we have in the Mackenzie Basin a heritage of which we may well be proud. I am glad that the Government, on considering the evidence elicited by the Senate committee, feel themselves justified in sending an expedition to that country to ascertain what steps should be taken for its protection and the development of its resources.

HON. MR. GIRARD—I should like to say a word in reply to my hon. friend from