

captivating manner. I desire, first of all, to offer my thanks to the Secretary for his courtesy in sending me an invitation to be present, and if I may be permitted to do so, I would at the same time tender to Miss Shaw my hearty congratulations upon her most admirable paper. None of us can fail to recognise in her journey to the Klondike a pluck and energy and a spirit of adventure that are thoroughly British. I would also congratulate her on the possession of a quality which is perhaps not quite so British, and that is her modesty in recounting her adventures in the Yukon district. Like Mr. Coste, I am a French Canadian, my mother tongue is French, and I feel at some disadvantage in addressing such a distinguished audience as this at so short a notice. However, I should not like to sit down without saying a word on behalf of Canada. I have not had the advantage of visiting the Klondike, but I have, during the last year or so, given a great deal of my time and attention to that country. I have been brought into contact with a great many people, miners and others, who have been there, and I have derived a large amount of information concerning it. From every source, I am in the position to corroborate absolutely everything that has been said, both by Miss Shaw and by Mr. Coste, as to the country, and in saying that I am speaking with a full sense of the responsibility which attaches to a member of the Canadian House of Commons, and at the same time with a desire to be on the cautious side in anything I may say. We have, in Canada, followed the example of the Mother Country in more things than one. If here you have opened your door to the trade of the world, we, in Canada, have opened our door to the energies of the world. Everybody is welcome to Canada, whether to the Klondike, Manitoba, or any other part of the country, to take up land, whether agricultural or mining. Everybody, as I say, is welcome to come and invest his capital, but there is one class of people whom we desire above all others, and that is the British people. It has been a source of considerable regret that during the last year or two British interests have not been as largely represented in Canada, and more particularly in the Yukon, as they ought to be. I believe sincerely that in the Yukon district we have the greatest mining camp in the world; not only of the day, but that ever existed. Now I am sorry to say they are not all British who have taken possession of that camp. Seven-eighths, or at least three-fourths, of the people who have taken lands in the Klondike are Americans. We are, of course, on very friendly terms with our neighbours in the States, and have every desire to trade with them, but we would like to see