

it had been made by hon. gentlemen opposite, and it is time we should put a stop to it. Why, Sir, hon. gentlemen should feel ashamed that a man like Rufus Stephenson should be foisted upon this country, both he and his son, he himself drawing \$3,000 a year and travelling expenses, and a son in an office in Winnipeg drawing \$2,000; and I do not know how many more relations he has living upon the country, I believe that every relation he has will be provided for at the public expense if this Government continues much longer in power. Now, Sir, I say it is time that we called a halt; it is time the Government were in a position to announce to this House that they intend to stop the extravagance that exists in the North-West. We shall be glad to encourage them in the direction of securing an increase of settlement. We do not deny that it is absolutely necessary in the interest of this Dominion that the country should be settled. We will offer then every encouragement, we will say every word we can in its favor. I believe myself it is going to be a great country, I believe it is the best unsettled country on the continent of America to-day. But I am sorry to say that by the blunders of this Government, by the manner in which that country has been handled and operated in the interests of political friends, by the manner in which her resources have been squandered, timber limits, land grants, and one thing and another having been used for political purposes, to serve political ends, that country in the past has been cursed, and I hope that curse will now be removed, and that in the future every inducement possible will be held out to the people of the old world to come there and make comfortable homes for themselves, and that the restrictions that have weighed upon settlement there, and have driven people across the border, will be removed. I say, that so far as the older sections of the country is concerned, we cannot afford to go on and spend recklessly, in the way we have been doing, the money of the people of this country in a manner that is altogether unnecessary. I claim that it is quite unnecessary. I claim that no man who will go through that country, as I went through it, and see on every hand fellows in official position, fellows occupying easy quarters and drawing large salaries, but will come to the conclusion that that country has been cursed. I hope the Minister, now in charge will put in the pruning hook at once, and that whatever the evils of the past may have been in regard to officials there, these evils will now be put a stop to. Why, Sir, there are evils in other directions. I am sorry to say, that my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) is no exception, because I see that the organ of which undoubtedly he is chief—or used to be, and I suppose he is still—is getting \$5,000 a year for printing. It appears that every one who supports the Government thinks he must get some little picking, some little advantage for himself. Now, I say we have had enough of this thing, it has just gone far enough, in the interests of the people of this country, and I hope that the members of this House will stand shoulder to shoulder, and persistently sit upon this thing, and not permit it to exist any longer, cut off these unnecessary and extravagant officials, and come down to a common sense position. The course that we have been pursuing in the past in the North West, has been a curse to the country; we have cursed it by our land regulations; we have cursed it by our mining regulations, by our railway regulations and in other ways; now let us remove all the restrictions and give the people an opportunity to rise, let us take off the unnecessary burden put upon them in the way of officials that are now roaming around that country, and cut down the expenditure to what is actually necessary. Then I believe that the country will prosper and will go on prospering. But I believe if you do not do that, if you allow this horde of officials and these monopolies to continue to exist as they have in the past, the same curse will con-

Mr. McMULLEN.

tinue to rest upon that country. Now, I consider it my duty, in the interest of the constituency I represent, and the Province from which I come, to make these remarks. I do not offer any objection to one word that has been said by the representatives of that country; I give them credit for advocating the cause of their country; they would not be doing their duty if they did not advocate it, but I also hold that it is our duty to keep control of these things. We, in the older Provinces, have an interest in that country, because we have to help to bear the burden, we have got to pay the taxes, we have to contribute towards the enormous sums that will annually fall upon the shoulders of the people of this country to meet the annual expense and the enormously increased interest on our public debt, to pay for the improvements that have been made up there; and I say it is our duty to raise our voice in the interests of the people and to declare that we object to see the taxes increased from year to year, that we object to see imposed upon them new burdens which cannot be rolled away for many years to come. I hope the course of this House will show the Minister of Interior that we desire him to put in the pruning hook, and let us begin at once to do what we ought to have done long ago.

Mr. DAVIS (Alberta). In speaking upon these resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly of the North-West last November, and that have been laid upon the Table by my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), I wish to say he has echoed my sentiments exactly. In the first part of his speech he also gave us a glowing description of the agricultural capacity of the North-West. There was one industry, however, which he did not speak of, and that is the ranching industry. We have in the district of Alberta, as you all know, a large expanse of open prairies, where we can graze cattle the year round. We have in the northern portion of the territory some of the finest, if not the very finest, farming land that lies out of doors. All we require is a railway in the North Saskatchewan country in order to develop that immense wheat country. Speaking of the ranching country, I may say that in the southern portion of Alberta you will see herds of cattle which have been put into that country during the last five years. There are at present, I suppose, about 130,000 horned cattle in the district of Alberta. The first year we had to import cattle, but last year I suppose the district of Alberta exported 5,000 head of steers, and probably as many more were consumed for home consumption, making 10,000 head of steers, while, five years ago, we had to import all the beef that was used in the country from the United States. Now these 10,000 head of steers, at \$40 a piece—which they would bring at least, while many of them brought \$50—would make \$400,000 for that new industry that has been established in the North-West. Then we have another industry that has just been established in that country, and that is the raising of horses. We have at present, I presume, at least 20,000 in the district of Alberta, and I wish to remind the Minister of Agriculture that in his quarantine list he has left out horses. I see he has discriminated against all other animals except horses, I wish he would include horses on the list in his quarantine regulations. They are raising a great many horses in the vast country to the south of us, and we know at the present time there is some disease amongst horses on the south side of the line; therefore I think the Minister ought to put horses on the list, but I would not advise him to give as many days as he does in the case of cattle. Then within the last few years in the district of Alberta there have been large tracts of land held by speculators from the east who never intended to put stock on them. The present Minister of Interior, since he assumed office, has thrown open at least 1,500,000 acres which, otherwise, would not have been opened to settlers, and this has