

those enterprises which were calculated to develop the resources of the west, as it compelled those persons either to pay enormous import taxes to the Dominion Government, or to pay large tribute to the Canadian Pacific Railway. The result was that it produced a condition of stagnation in the development of those resources in that province, which has continued throughout a number of years. And although during the last year or two, this inactivity has been burst through in one or two directions, yet that is entirely due to the irrepressible energy and perseverance of the pioneer prospectors of that country, and not to any kindly conditions which were imposed on it by the late Government. Of course, I recognize, and I freely admit, that there was a time in the history of the Conservative party when they did pursue a progressive policy towards the west; but, unfortunately, the working out of that policy even at that time was marked by a number of serious mistakes and instances of crude legislation which tended to keep back the progress of the country. But years have elapsed since the Conservative party pursued that policy. Latterly, as I have said, they have forgotten altogether the former tendency of their policy towards that part of the country. They have failed to appreciate altogether the magnificent resources and possibilities of that section of the Dominion; they have treated our demands and even our interests with indifference, and, in so far as they have shown us any special treatment, it has been characterized by such ignorance of local conditions there as to have very materially lessened the intended benefits. I have just said, with respect to the working of the trade policy, that it worked out disadvantageously to that part of the Dominion; but also with respect to less important matters which required special treatment, the late Government have also shown a tendency to treat us unjustly.

Let me state an instance. We have, for the last five years, contributed to the Dominion treasury on an average about \$2,000,000 per annum. The largest amount we have received back in any one year, to cover all public expenditures in the direction of all special appropriations for public works, has amounted to only \$1,200,000. The result has been a direct annual drain on that province for the last five years, of something like three-quarters of a million dollars. That circumstance, taken in connection with another circumstance which is equally known, that the people of British Columbia contribute three times as much per capita in federal taxation as the people of any other province, makes the injustice shown towards our province complete, and no wonder, in view of facts like these, and the additional fact that we require special treatment on account of the almost insuperable difficulties with which we have to contend,

we no longer see the solid six supporting a Conservative Government. Sir, there has been a change of sentiment out there. That change has been based on good, solid and substantial reasons, and we are here to-day as members from that province no longer supporting that party, because the electors in British Columbia have no longer faith in that party. We are here demanding fair-play; we ask for greater justice and more considerate treatment, and if we receive these, no doubt in return we will show the people of the east an expansion of trade, a development of resources, and an outburst of prosperity which will simply astound members of this House. But, in order that the House may understand, in its fullness, the wrongs that have been done to the western section of the country by the late Government, it is necessary to compare the natural conditions out there with the social conditions. Hon. members have heard, undoubtedly, of the great natural resources of British Columbia, but although they may have heard them praised to the sky, they have not heard those resources praised too highly. We have resources which make British Columbia the most favoured spot on this continent, if not in the world, as regards natural wealth. We have our timber limits, mighty forests practically without limit, of fir, cedar and pine; we have our fishing industries, which can be developed to almost any extent; we have enormous deposits of coal, enough in my own district to warm and run this continent for centuries; we have deposits of copper and iron, inexhaustible; and, above all, we have, as the House is aware, the precious metals, our hills and mountains honeycombed with these minerals, and I might almost say, the beds of all our rivers are laid with gold and silver. I say all, in order to express the extent of our wealth, because there is a peculiar fact in connection with the mineral wealth of British Columbia, and it is that the precious metals are not limited to any particular section, the whole country being one great mineral region through which gold and silver are thickly distributed. Unlike other countries, Africa and Australia, we have this distribution of precious metals through the whole length and breadth of the province. To-day you are hearing something of Kootenay and Cariboo, but I can assure this House that within a year or so at the outside, hon. members will be equally familiar with the names of Alberni and Texada. The people have not heard of these regions simply because time is required to develop the mines and to place them on a dividend-paying basis, at which time they are first heard of. To show what the possibilities of the great mining industry of British Columbia are, let me say that at Rossland, the centre of the Kootenay district, whereas two years ago it boasted of but fifty inhabitants, to-day the population is nearly 5,000; that