

up the reports of gentlemen travelling through the country, camping out in all weathers, one cannot expect to find in them a very pleasant description of the country. That is no reason, however, why the leading men of the Loyal Opposition should stand on the floor of this House and read by the hour such reports as they think are the most damaging to our Province. But, Sir, why should we complain? We are not alone in this matter. Other countries on the Pacific coast have been equally misunderstood. In the early settlement of California it was declared by farmers, who went in there for gold, that there was no agricultural land in that state—in fact for years they used Chili flour there. To-day California exports \$16,000,000 worth of wheat, a great portion of which is sent to the British Empire. The first men who turned their attention to farming there complained that the good land was all taken up by the missions, and that none was left for settlement. To-day, however, the area is increasing, because they find it is not necessary to have land on the levels; even those high lands are being put under cultivation by a new system of irrigation by which a still greater area of land is made fit for cultivation. I mean the system of tunneling the hills to obtain water, a system that can be made applicable to our hills as well as those of California. Oregon ranks high among the grain exporting countries whose exports of wheat, to-day, are 225,000 tons. Well, what was said of Oregon by the first settlers was similar to what is now said of British Columbia. Mr. Keith, who was in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's business in Oregon, at the time they purchased the right to carry on the fur business there, wrote to London to say that if they wished to carry on business there they would have to send flour out for their employes, 'as the country would not grow anything. Yet, to-day, there is shipped from Oregon 225,000 tons of wheat alone, besides what was raised for her own consumption and what she shipped to California, in which business two lines of steamships running to San Francisco are engaged. It was said of California that there was no agricultural land. The same statement was made with regard to Oregon, and we have heard it

made here with regard to British Columbia. I think I am not wrong in saying that the hon. member for Lambton said, on one occasion, that there was not as much land in British Columbia as would make a good farm.

MR. MACKENZIE: I never said anything of the kind.

MR. BARNARD: Well, it was something near it.

MR. MACKENZIE: No, it was not near it.

MR. BARNARD: Perhaps I can recall the incident to the hon. gentleman's recollection. He said he had very good authority for the statement, because his brother was in British Columbia and gave him the information. Perhaps that will bring the matter to the hon. gentleman's recollection.

MR. MACKENZIE: I never said anything of the kind.

MR. BARNARD: Well, perhaps I am wrong. I can understand that a man going through that country, for the first time, would declare, most unhesitatingly, that the land he was walking over would yield nothing, I had the same impression myself until I saw miners, who had come from countries where the value of irrigation was understood, busily tilling the land, and obtaining large results. All that is required is water, and that we find by digging ditches in the land. With water you can raise cereals to good advantage. Talk about the country being of no consequence at all; why, even the Indians there are bidding with the farmers of Ontario, and taking prizes from them for wheat, as they did at the Centennial Exhibition. Here, in this city, at the Dominion Exhibition, a medal was awarded to an Indian who raised grain in British Columbia, for the best sample of wheat shown. He also took a medal for the best sample of oats at the Philadelphia Exhibition. Is it not well to hesitate before denouncing, in a wholesale manner, our country. What part of the play is it that hon. gentlemen opposite are acting here. Over and over again they take up documents, as if our word was not to be depended upon, to declare that there is no land in that Province fit for cultivation. I never before heard of a country so traduced by its own people. Go into the United States and you will not find, anywhere, a set of men in any po-