

Pacific Ocean. It is well that that should be done by the representative of the Queen here; because, although one may hear and read a great deal as to the extent of the country and its varied resources, one realizes them very much more distinctly and fully when one sees them for himself; and, when gentlemen such as our Governors General have thoroughly learned what the character of this country is, and what its resources are, that information gradually filters down through the somewhat dense mass of British intelligence. I say that not in an offensive sense, because everyone knows that the British intellect is very conservative, and takes in new ideas very slowly; and the idea of Canada which permeated the British mind some years ago was that it was altogether a country somewhat like Labrador: and that idea having got possession of the conservative English mind, it takes a good many years to remove it, and there is almost nothing better calculated to remove it than the statements of gentlemen like our Governors General. I notice that, in speaking of his visit to our western regions, His Excellency says that the comparison of his observations with those of his predecessors shows clearly the great progress which has marked that part of the Dominion in the settlement of the country and in the development of its great agricultural capabilities, of its mineral wealth and of its other natural resources.

I am not aware that there has been any great development of the mineral resources of our western country—nothing very remarkable, and I may say that, for myself, my feeling with respect to Manitoba and the North-West Territories is one of disappointment. I think that the natural expectations entertained some years ago have not been realized. I cannot say that the North-West country has not made progress, and very considerable progress; but it has not advanced as I think it ought to have advanced, and as it would have advanced if it had been better administered. I appeal on that subject to an authority which the great majority of the members of this House recognize as a good one. It is now about nine years since the present leader of the Government informed us that by the year 1890 Manitoba and the North-West would by the surplus returns from the sale of lands, have paid the whole cost of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in addition, I

think, to paying the cost of administering the lands. That right hon. gentleman was regarded by hon. members of this House as a prophet, but I think in this case his prophecy has failed utterly. His judgment is reputed to be sound; if so, then his prophecy has proved false, simply because his Government has not administered the affairs of the country properly. Another eminent authority, a late Finance Minister, made a somewhat similar statement about the year 1882. It is not necessary to rest solely upon prophecy or statements made in advance: we can compare the progress of our North-West with that of some of the neighboring States. I do not think that any hon. gentleman here will deny that the natural resources of Manitoba are very considerably superior to those of Dakota; but the increase in the population of Dakota has been of late years something out of all proportion to the increase in Manitoba. When one considers that this country has spent within the last twenty years about \$100,000,000 upon that North-West country, he cannot but feel that the development of the country and the increase of population there have not been what we should have expected. The hon. gentleman who seconded the Address proposed to remedy the existing state of things by a vigorous immigration policy. We have had, in former years, vigorous policies in that department—that is, the policies were vigorous to the extent of spending considerable sums of money, but they were not successful in bringing a desirable class of immigrants to the country. I notice that the hon. gentleman who moved the Address said he did not think it was judicious to discourage immigration into this country. No one has ever discouraged the immigration of a desirable class; but, if the hon. gentleman stopped to think, would he recommend the Government of this country to aid in bringing to Canada the off-scourings of European cities. Those are not the kind of settlers that we want to put on the prairies of the North-West; and if they were placed there they would not stay very long. We want immigration, but immigration of a proper character. I am rather surprised that the hon. gentleman from Calgary, when speaking of this matter of immigration to the North-West, did not call attention to the fact that, while the Canadian Pacific