

greater inducement to them to give some preference. But they have obtained what they say is an advantage. Whether it will be so viewed or not is a matter to be determined altogether in the future: but there is no doubt that the people of this country stand higher in England at the present time than they ever did before. I believe Mr. Laurier did his duty and acted in the interests of the country, although he did receive this Cobden medal which has been so much talked about. Under all the circumstances, we were well represented by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in England, and it is not the province of conservatives and not the province of men acting as I am in the conservative cause ever to withhold from any man what he deserves or to detract from the credit due to him. I am not one of those who say that no good can come from such a source. I am willing to give credit for anything that is of substantial benefit to the country, and we may feel at any rate that we made some little progress in getting the people of England to view us with more consideration than in the past. There is a feeling in favour of this country and I hope it will continue. I hope our unity with the empire will continue. The people are united and there is nothing to detract from our allegiance to Her Majesty. We are loyal and will continue loyal, no matter what happens. We hear nothing more now of annexation. All that is dead and gone, and we all hope that it may long continue so, and that every man will feel that Canada is a country well worth having and England feel that Canada is one of the brightest jewels in her crown.

The gold discoveries in the Yukon are, of course, a burning question of the present time. It is very gratifying to hear so much about the richness of the country. We hear of men picking up from \$50,000 to \$100,000, but we do not hear much about those unfortunate miners who pick up nothing. There is a great deal of difference whether a miner is successful or whether he is not. To some, success is a benefit; to others, it is not. From present appearance there is every indication that the Yukon is a very valuable country, and it is proposed that means of communication shall be opened up at the earliest possible moment. I believe it is unanimously agreed that the measure before us aims at this object. The only question is by what means it shall be done.

There is such a thing as paying too dear for an advantage. There is an idea throughout the whole country that the arrangement with McKenzie and Mann is one that will not redound to the benefit of this country as much as it should. I am, and have always been opposed to giving away unnecessarily, without due and fair consideration, the valuable assets of this country. Unfortunately, in the past it has been the practice of all governments to dispose of the public assets and receive very little compensation for them. I will instance the timber resources of this Dominion. I say, and I know what I am talking about, that these timber resources should have been from the first day of the settlement of this country safeguarded, and if they had been, we would have had timber wealth in the country sufficient to pay the national debt ten times over. The fact is, we did not appreciate it—we give it away. All a man had to do in the early days was to go to the Crown timber office, select a couple of hundred square miles of timber land, pay nothing for it, keep it and reap the advantage from it. It has been a disgrace to this country that we should have allowed so valuable a heritage, and increasing in value to such an extent, to pass out of the public domain, and get comparatively nothing for it in return. I know myself where parties have abandoned limits after working them for years. I have known them to take off several rafts of square timber and large quantities of saw logs, and then sell the limit for fabulous sums of money. I think we should have retained our timber lands and administered them for the benefit of the people of this country. It has been the same way with our public lands. We have never realized a solitary dollar of profit out of our lands in the old province of Ontario and Quebec. That is most extraordinary, but William Hamilton Merritt made a calculation some years ago, and brought out the fact conclusively, that the public lands were rather an item of expense than of revenue to this country, owing to the cost of administration and the easy terms on which they were disposed of. But as the hon. gentlemen all know, the statement I made about timber applies to-day. Even at the present time there is an immense quantity of timber on public lands for which the country is getting very little. It is true that since the public lands have passed into the hands of the local governments of Onta-