

Such are the results achieved by the far-sighted and truly national policy inaugurated by the present Administration and its leader. And this accounts for the fact that the electorate of this country who see the hon. leader of the Government redeeming all the pledges given them while in the Opposition, show him their gratitude at each by-election, by an uninterrupted series of signal victories. And as a fit climax to the work accomplished by the devoted and skilful men who are now at the head of our affairs, the fertile soil of Canada has yielded to us one of the most bountiful harvests the country has ever been blessed with, while, on the other hand, the hardy pioneers of the Klondike have been extracting from the bosom of the icy gold fields of the Arctic circle a golden harvest which seems almost inexhaustible. Sir, we do not pretend to say that this bountiful harvest and the discovery of these gold-bearing fields are to be ascribed merely to the Liberal policy inaugurated by the Government; but we hold that the Government may justly claim credit for having adopted the measures best calculated to secure the development of our gold fields and to foster our agricultural interests.

Never before had the Department of Agriculture done so much to second the efforts of our farming community, to facilitate the handling and the transporting of our agricultural products and their selling off on the foreign markets. In this connection, allow me, Sir, as a representative of a rural constituency, to offer my thanks to the Government, on behalf of the farming community. With reference to our gold fields, I may say that the Government have taken the necessary steps towards the civil and judicial organization of those territories, wherein civilisation had heretofore hardly penetrated; they have, through their police regulations, secured the reign of peace and order among the natives and the prospectors, while affording protection to our missionaries as also to the life and property of the miners. And all those gratifying results have been achieved in such a way that the Yukon has been made to pay for the expenses of the Yukon, without otherwise burdening the country with the necessary expenditure. It is also most satisfactory to find in the Speech from the Throne that the Government have thought it expedient in the public interest to authorize the construction of a line of telegraph in the Yukon district for the purpose of maintaining speedy communication with the people of those distant territories. For my part, speaking as a representative of a constituency from which already nearly one hundred miners have gone forth to the northern gold fields, I feel it my duty to convey to the Government the expression of the gratitude of those families which, after a cruel separation, were forced to remain for months and months a prey to anxiety and alarm, because they could not get any news from their relatives, not know-

Mr. MARTINEAU.

ing whether they ought to mourn their loss or rejoice over their good fortune. As hon. gentlemen know, the lack of railway facilities in the Yukon cannot be laid at the door of the Government, who, although well equipped to overcome all the natural obstacles in that country, found themselves unable to cope with certain constitutional difficulties which prevented the passage of their legislation, constitutionally, if you like, but still in such a way as to show us once more that, as all human institutions, our constitution is still open to improvement. Far be it from my thought, Sir, to question the wisdom of the fathers of our constitution, who having such a difficult task to discharge proved truly equal to the duty they were called upon to perform; and now that most of those nation-builders have been gathered to their memory to record here on the floor of the House that they did their duty. As to those framers of our constitution who are still in our midst, let me add that the presence to-day on the floor of this House of the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) shows the wonderful vitality and the indomitable energy which those champions of old were endowed with. If I may be allowed to say so, Providence, it seems, wishes him to remain at his post as a striking illustration of what a lion-hearted man endowed with an indomitable will can do. To him I would willingly apply the words of Horace: 'Justum et tenacem propositi virum.' As the righteous man referred to by the latin poet, he stands to-day unshaken amidst the ruins of the past. 'Imparvidum ferient ruinæ.' Every time that the electorate was appealed to and asked to give a verdict on the policy of the Government, the people taking into consideration the fact that the Government had restored peace and harmony everywhere, brought back the equilibrium into our finances, and provoked such an expansion in our trade and industry as to exceed the most sanguine anticipations of the optimists, the people, I say, have invariably sanctioned and ratified the vote given on that memorable date, the 23rd of June, 1896, by ever increasing majorities. And yet, hon. gentlemen opposite and their illustrious leader will not yield to evidence. If we are to believe them, a reaction is taking place, and they believe that they are drawing closer to the ministerial benches, a phenomenon which can only be accounted for by an optical illusion on their part.

On these several points as also on that most legitimate reform, the readjustment of the electoral divisions of Ontario, we must agree to disagree with our friends opposite. There is, however, a matter upon which there cannot be but a perfect consensus of opinion, and, upon a recent occasion, at a time when a disagreement broke out between Her Majesty's Commissioners and those of the United States concerning the delimita-