

of the resolution passed by the Ottawa Conference asking that these difficulties in the way of interprovincial arrangements should be removed, the Imperial Government introduced a Bill into the Imperial Parliament which made it possible to make what arrangements we pleased between Canada and any part of Australasia. A treaty was made between New Zealand and Canada years ago. Under that Act of the Imperial Government, all difficulties were removed.

I desire to refer for a moment to a very interesting part of the Speech, and it is that which refers to the Yukon. There is a paragraph in the Speech which reads as follows:—

The extraordinary gold discoveries recently made upon the Yukon and its tributaries, appear likely to result in an enormous influx of people into that region, and have compelled the Government to take prompt action for the preservation of law and order in that distant and almost inaccessible locality; measures will be laid before you for that purpose.

Of course, I will not discuss the arrangements that have been made with respect to the preservation of law and order there, except on one point, and to that I desire to draw the attention of the Government for a moment. I dare say, some hon. members have discovered that there is somewhere an Ottawa liar, that occasionally statements are sent to the press over this country from Ottawa which are entirely false and unfounded. I read one of them. It is dated January 28, and was sent, not to Toronto or Montreal, where it would immediately have met with contradiction, but to British Columbia and the North-west Territories, for the purpose of having an injurious effect on the character of a public man before there is any possibility to contradict it:

While parties have been here wire-pulling at Ottawa for weeks back to obtain permits for taking whisky to Yukon, Sir Charles Tupper is said to have got ahead of all his compeers and obtained for the Klondike Mining and Transportation Company a permit for the sale of 50,000 gallons from the British Columbia Government. It will be taken to the northern boundary of the province and shipped from there as the purchasers see fit. It is computed that the company can make several hundred thousand dollars on the venture.

I say to this House that this statement has not the slightest foundation in fact, that I never applied for a permit to send a gallon of whisky to the North-west, Klondike, or anywhere else. It says that I applied to the Government of British Columbia. That government has no power to grant a permit to take a gallon of whisky into the North-west Territories, as every member of the House knows. The statement was simply a falsehood manufactured without the slightest basis. I probably would be the last man in Canada who would do anything of the kind, even if I had an opportunity. And why? I had the honour to

propose the prohibitory law which applies to the whole North-west Territories, and when Minister of Customs I carried that measure through Parliament; and I was in a position to say, at a temperance breakfast to which I was invited in London on one occasion, when they were talking about prohibitory enactments and their practicability, that I had the honour of obtaining from Parliament a prohibitory law covering the largest portion of the earth's surface to which such a law was ever extended. Gentlemen present asked: Was it carried out, did it do any good? I answered: Yes, it did a great deal of good, and you will see it was vigorously enforced when I tell you that on board of a Canadian Pacific Railway train the pocket of a member of Parliament was searched by the Mounted Police, a flask found and its contents emptied on the ground. This will be further apparent when I tell you that at a great banquet tendered to Lord Dufferin, after his visit to the North-west, the only liquor obtainable in which to drink his health was Perry Davis' Pain-killer; thus you will see how vigorously the law was enforced. This question came up before the company of which I was chairman, and I said to them: I am under the impression—I have had nothing to do with the subject for some time—that there is a prohibitory law in force there. I sent a message to Mr. Blount, my private secretary, who applied to the Government and was told that a prohibitory law was in force and no person was allowed to take liquor into the North-west. This was conclusive evidence and closed the subject. I may say, for the information of the Minister of the Interior, that it was added that, as the Minister of the Interior was a strict prohibitionist, there was every hope he would maintain that principle. I can only say that he will have my hearty sympathy in every possible effort to prevent the introduction of liquor into the North-west Territories. In my judgment, there is the same objection to its introduction in the Yukon district as in the other part of the North-west Territories. One of our strong reasons for prohibiting the manufacture, use or sale of liquor in the North-west Territories was the danger of inflaming the minds of the Indians and leading to trouble, for at that time there was a very small number of whites and a very large number of Indians in the territory. In my judgment, one of the great difficulties to be apprehended in respect to the Yukon country is an influx of 100,000, 150,000 or 200,000 people from all parts of the world, including many men of very lawless character, and I believe all measures the Government can adopt to prevent the introduction of intoxicating liquors in that country should be taken in the interest of the country.

I now come to the contract for a railway from the Stikine to Teslin Lake. I do