

before the House a year ago; and when we anticipated the adoption of a more northerly course from Winnipeg than has since been taken. The country through which the road passes is better than would have been traversed by the other route. The grades and curves—but I need not speak of the curves, as they do not affect the question—the grades are less severe than those we would have been compelled to adopt on the line contemplated a year ago, and the change will not materially lengthen the line, if at all, if we have to fall back on the Yellow Head Pass, while seventy-nine miles will be saved by obtaining access through the Kicking Horse Pass. Now, Sir, I may say it is a source of no little satisfaction to me to be able to make so gratifying a statement as I have presented to the House with relation to this matter. After we have had the opportunity of looking at this question—not in the light of an abstract question, in which we were to some extent compelled to view it a year ago, but in the light of a year's experience—I have shown the House the enormously rapid advance which has been made in the construction of this great national work, for it is a great national work, whether it be in the hands of the Government of the day or in the hands of a Company subsidized—largely subsidized, hon. gentlemen opposite will say—by the Government of the day, or by Parliament. And I say it is extremely gratifying to find that the most sanguine predictions which any hon. gentlemen on this side of the House made, as to the progress of this great work, have been more than realized by the vigor which has been exerted on it by the gentlemen who are engaged in it. And perhaps, Sir, after this year's experience, which we are able to look back upon, it may not be unadvisable before I sit down for me to notice how far the fears, that were entertained by hon. gentlemen opposite a year ago, have been proved to be well founded, or unfounded, when submitted to this crucial test. Sir, I now think we have the data for expressing an opinion, and a very sound opinion, on a great many points, which troubled hon. gentlemen opposite when Parliament was called upon to ratify this contract. During last Session, I have taken up, Sir, a volume—I was going to say, of forgotten lore. I have taken up, Sir, the expansion on the Journals of the views of hon. gentlemen opposite during last Session, but it has ceased to be regarded—in the excitement that the country has felt, and in the interest that all the country has manifested, in the wonderful progress of this work, and in the remarkable development of the country under the operation of this progress—with any attention; and that what