

men who ever reigned over a people : "It is my wish that every inhabitant of my kingdom should, every Sunday, eat without stint." Long, Mr. Speaker, may it be possible for him to display in our midst the eminent qualities which make him so dear to Canadians of every origin and of every creed. It was not without a lively feeling of satisfaction that the House heard His Excellency refer in his Speech to the progress made in our various public undertakings; but an event which was received with a special feeling of enthusiasm was the opening of the Intercolonial Railway. That great Railway may now be looked upon as one of the safest, most comfortable, and most complete in all America. Every doubt of its great utility must vanish when it is considered that, in addition to the fresh facilities which it affords to trade, it will in great measure contribute to the development of one of our finest branches of industry, the fisheries, and will at the same time prove a powerful agent in promoting colonization in a portion of territory hitherto comparatively unexplored. In this connection, Sir, may I be permitted to claim a humble share in the merit of those who, as members of this House, contributed to the production of the resolution which decided the selection of that line. Begun soon after the inauguration of our federal system, which made it a political as well as a commercial necessity, the Intercolonial has finally, by its opening, affixed the last seal to the union of the Maritime Provinces with those which formerly constituted the Province of Canada. If we now turn our eyes upon our vast public works in connection with the navigation of the St. Lawrence and those which are in course of being carried out in the boundless regions of the west, we shall find that we have reason to congratulate ourselves and the country upon the rapid progress which, during some years past, has been obtained in the execution of those enormous undertakings. Already the colossal enterprise destined to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific, shows highly appreciable results, and notwithstanding the innumerable difficulties which beset

the carrying that work into effect, we may now believe that, thanks to the vigour with which the operations are directed, the line of the Pacific Railway will soon be completely located. This will be a great step towards the accomplishment of that gigantic enterprise, the management of which, as well as that of our other great public works has been hitherto, it is but fair to acknowledge, conducted by the hon. the Prime Minister with a degree of tact and prudence, combined with a spirit of economy, of which the Canadian people will not, in a fitting time, fail to show their appreciation. Connected with the construction of the Pacific Railway is another work, which in no way yields to it in importance, and that is the colonization of the North-West. For several years the Government of Canada availed themselves of different means to attract immigration towards our great western prairies. For that purpose, agencies were kept up in different parts of Europe, and various publications, intended to convey a knowledge of our territory and its natural advantages, were circulated here and there. These laudable efforts doubtless received lively encouragement from the marked results which followed them. I may, however, be allowed to express the view that in my humble opinion the most powerful means which would efficiently contribute to the colonization of the North-West is the construction of the Pacific Railway. I have always considered railways as the most powerful colonizing agents. But here I hasten to request hon. members, especially those who sit on the left of this House, not to be led to infer from that, that, with a view of greater impulse to the construction of that immense railway, I should be disposed to favour an increase of the burdens and of the sacrifices which are now laid upon us. The Pacific Railway is a majestic work which must be carried to a successful termination, without doubt, but in time. To be brought to that successful termination it must, like all our great public undertakings, make gradual progress without haste, without irregularity, and, above all, according to the measure of our resources. If, in contradistinction to the