

natural conditions are not as favourable as in many other parts, but time and enterprise will no doubt agreeably modify many of them, and the reward may be great.

That is a fair statement of the conclusion of Mr. Ogilvie and of the conclusion which anybody would come to who went into the matter carefully and endeavoured to collect the information that is now available.

Let me point out to the House now some of the difficulties of a territorial character under which the Government labour in dealing with this problem. I was somewhat surprised to hear the remarks which were made on this subject by the leader of the party which, we are told by the erudite and scholarly member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) so often, has the instinct of Government, whatever that may be, and which, he says, is possessed exclusively by hon. gentlemen on that side. One of the great proofs of that instinct, I should think, would be unanimity and loyalty. And when you see a party which displays so much harmony as that perfect accord which exists between the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) and his leader, and between another of its leading lights, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) and his leader—when you find a party whose leading spirits are so intimate and perfectly united in brotherly love—when you find this perfect loyalty among them to one another, with no such thing, for instance, as setting a private detective on their leader's track to find out when he is interviewed by a newspaper reporter, you find a party undoubtedly possessed of the instinct of government. I do not pretend that this is altogether germane to the question; but the remarks of the hon. member for West Assiniboia about the instinct of government are really so amusing that it is difficult to refrain from advertizing to them. I was somewhat surprised to find an hon. gentleman who leads the party that has this instinct of government to such an intense degree, proceeding to-night, in a manner which would not do credit to the most obscure stump-speaker that ever addressed a backwoods audience, to discuss, in the most unqualified terms, the most delicate international relations existing between the Government of this country and the Government of the United States. Why, I am astonished, Mr. Speaker, that an hon. gentleman who has been years in the public service of the country, does not seem to realize that speeches of that kind are calculated to lead to the direst calamities and difficulties between nations—speeches which inflame the public mind and the sentiments of people who do not know better, who do not know the responsibilities which rest upon members of the Government in difficulties of that kind. The United States Government are, upon the Pacific Coast, met with very great difficulties. They have a population there which is very much excited over the possibilities of the Klondike trade, and who, perhaps, are not too

careful as to what the results may be from the measures which they are urging on their government. I should say, from the conversations I have had with members of the United States Government, that they realize the responsibilities that rest upon them as the government of a civilized country, and we, on our part, recognize the responsibilities that we are under as the Government of a civilized country, dealing with another civilized country in a civilized, decent and courteous way. So far as the Government of the United States is concerned, there has been no cause for complaint on the part of this Government with regard to the methods they have seen fit to adopt in connection with the affairs of this district. We have met with every courtesy at their hands, and, although they have difficulties—for political difficulties do not exist alone in our country—and cannot always do what they would like to do, I would venture to say, that the common sense of hon. members, not only on this side, but on the other side, will agree with me when I say that it was an act of the greatest possible friendliness on the part of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States to amend their regulations and provide such regulations at Dyea and Skagway as are calculated to facilitate and promote Canadian trade. I venture to say that this is one of the things which the Canadian people will remember, and which the dominant political party that represents our people will remember, with gratitude when discussing questions of this kind.

These regulations were changed, and our friends at the Coast now tell us that they are perfectly satisfactory with the additional arrangements that were made by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) for the purpose of more effectually carrying them out and more effectually promoting their object. In addition to that, our mounted police have gone through United States waters and through United States territory without question. Every facility that could be given has been given to us; and, while at present, there remains some business to be done in connection with the Stikine River and the navigation thereof—as to which I shall speak at a later period—I say that we have had up to the present time, so far as the United States Cabinet is concerned, the most fair and reasonable and courteous treatment. It would not be a proper thing for me as a member of this Government to listen to the blatant statements made in this House to-night without making this statement in justice and fairness to the Government of the United States.

Now, it is easy for gentlemen, especially for hon. gentlemen who write letters to newspapers over signatures other than their own, to minimize difficulties. But let me explain to the House the difficult position we were placed in with regard to this territory. If hon. gentlemen will refer to the