

make as much as they can in our Territories; and I fear that some organization may yet make its way, either from Alaska or by way of the Mackenzie River, into the interior, and arouse the hostility of the Indians and create trouble that might be very difficult to overcome. Of course, the Indians have their missionaries, who would do, as they always have done, not only in that country, but in every part of the Dominion, all in their power to encourage respect for constituted authority; but at that great distance from civilization, in a country inhabited only by Indians and a few traders and hunters, if any parties went in there with an evil intent, to take possession of that territory, they would undoubtedly succeed, unless there is some authority there to resist them—mounted police or soldiers, or whatever constituted authority the Government should be pleased to create there. I do not expect the Government to expend much money at present in the Mackenzie Basin country. We have Manitoba and the North-West still to settle, and we want people to come in there, and if the Government will expend large sums of money for that purpose they will deserve well of the Dominion. At the same time, they should not overlook that vast portion of the North-West to which I have endeavored to direct your attention. It is more important, in my opinion, than many other parts of the Dominion; and I venture to predict that in the not very distant future the Mackenzie Basin will be one of the most important and wealthy portions of the great North-West. It will be remembered that during the great struggles in Europe it was the people of the north who came to reestablish order everywhere. In the future it may be from the Great Mackenzie Basin that armies of strong men fitted for battle will come perhaps to save the Dominion from some difficult position in which we may at any time be placed. The resolution I have placed before the House will, I think, meet with the hearty concurrence of hon. gentlemen. It is a patriotic question, and one that I have undertaken to place before you with great diffidence, because I have to speak in a language that is not my own, and I am not always sure that I make myself understood. At the same time, I am so convinced of the great importance of this question that my deep interest in

it and my entire sincerity will be my excuse for troubling the House on this occasion.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I am sure that my hon. friend from Manitoba may be perfectly satisfied, as respects his advocacy of the interests of the people in the north-western portion of our Territories, that he has the entire sympathy, not only of this House, but of the Government, in his desire to preserve that country for the Dominion, and to take such preliminary steps as may further its ultimate development. I hope all his aspirations as to its importance as a part of the Dominion may be realized. I have no doubt that they will be in a great degree, though I do not hope that I myself, or perhaps my hon. friend will see it, but of course we do not legislate for to-day, but for the future, and the fact that the prosperity of this great territory may be deferred for some years until the natural overflow of population from the North-West Territories shall reach it should not at all deter us from taking such steps as may be necessary to further its ultimate settlement, and its ultimately reaching the importance which my hon. friend attributes to it in the great system of the Dominion. My hon. friend took an active part last year and the year before—more especially the year before last—in the discussion of the merits and capabilities of the great Mackenzie Basin, as a member of the committee which was appointed by the Senate for that purpose; and the Senate had in both those years an exposition of the views of hon. gentlemen who had made themselves acquainted with the resources of the Mackenzie Basin, in addition to the report itself. At the time that those documents were laid before the House I stated in the House that I would call the attention of my colleagues to the facts which had been brought out by the committee, and in the debates in the Senate; and, as is my habit, I carried out my promise, and during the past year the subject to which my hon. friend refers in his motion has been under the serious and careful consideration of the Government. They have come to the conclusion, to a certain extent in accordance with my hon. friend's motion, that the time has arrived when some steps must be taken towards the object he contemplates, and for that purpose it has been decided that as soon