

was a successful attempt to buoy up the contingent, who were going away with their lives in their hands to fight a British battle, with the joyous reflection that the government had come to their aid and that in case of death they would be provided with this additional insurance. But, they are told, in the most unfeeling manner that the government have backed out, that all the hopes that had been excited were false hopes ending in the same delusion that the promises of this government usually end in, in regard to anything they undertake to do. I will only say that I hope, when the hon. Minister of Public Works next has occasion to refer to this handsome, generous act of a private individual who was prepared, out of his own means and resources and at his own personal cost and who stands to-day pledged to an insurance of \$1,000 for every man who loses his life or two limbs in that encounter, I hope that when he next deals with that subject he will remember the black, disreputable tragedy enacted by the government in allowing these people to go away feeling that they were provided for when they are afterwards told that it is a delusion and that there is not a single farthing provided by this government for those they left behind in case of death.

I want to return for a few moments, and for a few moments only, because I was sorry I had not the opportunity of concluding before the House rose, and I must ask the indulgence of the House for again being obliged to repeat it after coming back here, but I want for a few moments to draw the attention of the House to the position of Canada on this question. I have no better evidence to offer to the House than the evidence offered by the right hon. Prime Minister, when sitting alongside of the Prince of Wales, and when he declared that Canada was a great nation, that she was as independent a nation now as it was possible for a country to be, that she had every right and enjoyed every privilege that any independent nation, in any country in the world enjoyed, and he was quite right. Canada has reached, aye, and had reached that position before the right hon. gentleman occupied a position at the head of this government—Canada had reached a position in which she had the most absolute control of her own affairs and of the government of her country. Canada has committed to her care the northern half of this great continent of North America, and in my judgment, not the least valuable or important half. Canada has been endowed by nature with all these boundless resources. Canada bids fair—it is now every day being developed—to become one of the most important and wealthiest countries in the world. Canada has the northern half of this great continent under her control, she has boundless, inexhaustible treasures to add to her wealth

and to develop it rapidly into a great country, and now that all the lines of communication of this country are established, and there is inter-communication from end to end she has reached the position in which she is going ahead, as the hon. member for West Ontario (Mr. Gould) said, by leaps and bounds. Whether you take her position in regard to the fisheries, in regard to her coast, in regard to her timber, in regard to her mineral resources, in regard to her soil, in regard to her climate—take the position of Canada from any standpoint and you cannot find, on the face of the globe, 5,000,000 of people, or 5,500,000, and I hope, approaching 6,000,000 of people, occupying a prouder, a more advantageous, or a more splendid position. She has the glory of British institutions; she offers a security for life and property which is alone to be found under British institutions. I will not say alone to be found under British institutions, but which will not be exceeded by any other institutions that human skill or sagacity has ever devised. That is the position she occupies. You cannot show me to-day, on the face of the globe, a population equal to the population of Canada, enjoying greater advantages or enjoying the blessings of greater wealth, greater prosperity or greater progress. That is the position we occupy. As to foreign aggression, every person knows that not a foreign foot can touch the soil of Canada, no finger from any foreign power can be placed upon a Canadian without we have, as I have already shown you, in the magnificent reference to it by the hon. Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, in which he said, surrounded by the right hon. Prime Minister and the other premiers, that the great army and the unrivalled navies of England were not for aggression, but that they were evidence to the outlying portions of this great empire of their complete security and complete immunity from foreign aggression. Will you show me any people in any country in the world that enjoy these advantages on the terms that Canada enjoys them, with the most absolute, the most perfect, as the right hon. gentleman has stated, the most complete independence, enjoying everything that complete independence can give us and standing to-day as part of the British Empire. We have the fact that we are part of that great empire, under whose aegis all our rights and liberties are secured from foreign aggression. What is the position of any other country in the world compared with that of Canada? Countries, with the comparative resources and population of Canada, are borne down with heavy, onerous, oppressive taxation to sustain an army and a navy to protect them against foreign aggression. Under these circumstances where is the man to be found who will say that Canada, in this hour of her great prosperity,