

possibility that we may be able to get an abundant water supply in the dryest parts of the prairies. If secured it will be something that, I think, the Government may be proud of, and will place us all under a deep debt of gratitude to my hon. friend.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I do not agree with the conclusions or remarks of my hon. friend who has just taken his seat, and doubt whether the Government will find it necessary that this expenditure of money should be made. I have listened with a great deal of attention to the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Burlington, who has, to some extent, provided an antidote for the proposition he has placed before us, because I agree with my hon. friend in what he has stated about the vast agricultural resources, and capabilities, and natural wealth of our North-West country. I hope that his remarks will be published, not only throughout Canada, but in other countries as well, as they will no doubt be an inducement to emigrants to go and settle in the North-West country. I must say, when I saw, a few days ago, this notice on the Paper calling the attention of the Government and of the House to this question, and asking the Government to provide for these surveys, I asked myself the question: Is this the land flowing with milk and honey, the country that we believe it is? Is this the country possessing the rich virgin soil which we all believe it has, or is it an arid country, so dry and barren that we are obliged to resort to the means which are adopted only in tropical climates? I say, with such a notice before me, I do not believe a greater libel could be cast upon our fair virgin soil in the North-West than that contains.

HON. MR. POWER—Hear, hear; and by a good Tory, too.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Had this notice come from a gentleman from the North-West, acquainted with the characteristics of the country and the necessity there may be for irrigation, canals and reservoirs, I would suppose that there was something in it, but when it comes from an hon. gentleman who does not reside there, and who has probably not more knowledge of the country than I possess

myself, I must confess that I continue to believe that the North-West is not of that sterile character which requires the Government to spend large sums of money to irrigate it and prepare it for settlement. I believe there is no part of the United States so well provided with water or has such natural advantages as are to be found in the Canadian North-West. I agree with my hon. friend that probably four-tenths of the unsettled territory of the United States is of an arid character, and requires all these appliances advocated by my hon. friend for the North-West in order to bring it to its full development and enable it to produce crops; but I contend that in our prairie country there is no necessity for anything of that kind, and I look at the proposition in this notice as being entirely out of place. It suggests:

“The importance of making preliminary surveys in the North-West, with the view of locating reservoirs for water, to be obtained by means of artesian wells, and by conserving the waters of rivers and streams, for the irrigation of districts which suffer from drought in dry seasons; and will enquire whether it is the intention of the Government to make such surveys?”

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—You have got the wrong notice.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Then my hon. friend has changed the notice.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—I gave notice to the House that I would do so.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Then the hon. gentleman has only done it within the last day or two. The position he takes now is that the country is of such a nature that it requires irrigation only in certain localities. I notice now that it reads:

“That he will call the attention of the House to the importance of making preliminary surveys in that part of the North-West Territories lying immediately to the east of the Rocky Mountains, and in the neighborhood of the Cypress Hills and Wood Mountains, with a view to its irrigation; and will enquire whether it is the intention of the Government to make such surveys, and also for the purpose of locating artesian wells, for farm and domestic purposes, in districts where they may be required.”

I am glad to find, from this amended notice, that instead of making irrigation necessary for all the North-West, he confines it to the Cypress Hills and the Wood