

ment of the Indian title in the North-West is a matter of the greatest importance to the Dominion of Canada. The extent of territory already acquired from the Indians of that country equals in extent 288,000,000 acres. This territory would make 5,760,000 farms of 50 acres each. Of course this land is not all arable, but estimates of the capacity of this country for furnishing food and sustenance to the human race vary from 15,000,000 to 40,000,000. The future value of this country to Canada can scarcely be over-estimated. Here, Sir, will be the seat of Canada's power. The old adage, "Westward the star of empire takes its way." will be realized in our history, and in a few years the prairies of that country will be dotted with cities, towns and villages. In a few years that Great Lone Land will be the site of thriving and busy communities, and the desolate places of that country will be made glad. Of course, in effecting treaties for the extinguishment of Indian titles, heavy annuities have to be paid, and large burdens have been incurred. But the importance of maintaining amicable relations with those Indian tribes can scarcely be over-estimated, and I need not say that heavy annual annuities will be found much cheaper than the lightest war expenditure. Reference is made in the Speech to the presence of Sitting Bull, and a large body of Indians, on Canadian territory. I do not suppose, Sir, that our authorities invited Sitting Bull to make us a visit; I presume he can hardly be considered a welcome guest. This, however, is a question which requires delicate handling, and it was not thought proper that measures for the expulsion of Sitting Bull and his band should be adopted. Reference is also made to the efforts of the United States Government to induce Sitting Bull and his band to return to their reservation, which I hope will be crowned with success. And, in this connection, I may take occasion to say that much misapprehension exists in the public mind in Canada in regard to the nature of the Indian policy of the United States. An impression, I am persuaded, is generally prevalent that the United States, in their Indian policy, are inhuman and unjust in

their treatment of the Indians, and that their only desire is to pursue to a successful termination the policy of extermination. Such, Sir, is far from being the case. The policy of the United States Government in the treatment of its Indians is liberal, much more liberal than the policy of our own Government. Their payments to Indians are greater in proportion than the payments of Canada in the form of annuities; the United States Government has made provision for the Indians in the reservation of very large tracts of land; it has set apart for that purpose a very large section of the United States; it has, in addition to this ample accommodation for the Indians in various parts of the United States, taken every means to induce the Indians to adopt agricultural pursuits, and has offered to furnish implements and even gone so far as to offer them houses. But the efforts of the United States Government in this regard have been thwarted by the malpractices of frontier men and the villainies of agents. I have no doubt that the House will be pleased to learn that the United States Government is about to turn over the management of its Indian affairs to the Department of War, and, from the proverbially high character of the American officers, we are warranted in believing that most happy results will flow from this, especially upon our own borders. The next reference made in this speech, Sir, is to the Pacific Railway surveys. I need hardly refer to the difficulties that have attended the selection of the route of the Canadian Pacific Railway—difficulties greater, perhaps, than have attended the surveys of any similar enterprise. These difficulties may be fairly measured by their enormous cost. The cost of these surveys up to the present time, has exceeded \$3,140,000. And, Sir, the time occupied in the prosecution of these surveys, which has somewhat exceeded seven years, is a commentary upon the absurdity of the original contract to commence this road within two years and to build it within ten years. The country will naturally desire that the utmost prudence shall, in the future, characterize the policy of the country