

endeavours to make out a case against this great scheme, have been forced to put themselves in a very unhappy position of running down a large part of the country through which this road is to pass. They have been obliged, as we showed last session, when we brought forward information which seemed to be remarkable concerning the character of the country through which this road is to run, to discredit that information. It seemed to give them great unhappiness if any man could be found to say a good word for that great stretch of country lying in the north part of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. I notice that many of my colleagues and friends have recently and naturally resented the representations which have been made respecting such a large portion of the territory of Canada; but from the point of view which I occupy at this moment, I confess that I am not much concerned in considering whether that stretch of territory is good or bad country—it is our country, and it is our duty to open it up. If it is a land of muskegs and jackpine and granite ridges, then, Sir, it is a vast stretch of the territory of Canada lying between the great east and the greater west, and it is our duty to run a railroad through it and make something of it. I am not so pretentious in some matters as some hon. gentlemen; but I venture to say with profound respect that I have too great a faith in the grand Architect of the universe to believe that He ever constructed that vast territory in the north of Ontario and Quebec, and make it good for nothing. I am a firm believer in the view that to each and every part of this great country is given the capacity to produce something and to do something which shall contribute to the making and the upbuilding of this Dominion.

### THE YUKON AS AN ILLUSTRATION.

It is but a little while ago since you could not have found anybody to give you a five dollar bill for all the land you could have offered him up in the northern part of Canada. You would have been told that it was a waste of money to give anything for it, and if any serious proposal had been made to spend public money up in the Yukon—Alaska, it would have been very naturally scoffed at, because the country is in the far north of which hon. gentlemen opposite like to speak in such contemptuous terms. But what has happened within the scope almost of this parliament and within the time of this government? Only seven or eight years ago that land was despised and decried, but that same land, which people said was good for nothing, has become the Mecca of the people from every part of the civilized world; and in Dawson city, which a few years ago was unknown, there is now a thriving and prosperous community. Who can doubt then that as we open up this northern region in Ontario and Quebec, we shall develop resources? Who can doubt that it has mines, minerals, timber, agricultural lands and water powers and all the other things which modern science knows how to develop and turn to the making and building up of a country? We believe that all these things will be found in that country. But I come back to my first proposition and say that if it is as bad as my hon. friends opposite say it is; if it is full of swamps, jackpines and muskegs, it stands there as a bridge between eastern and western Canada, and it is our duty to occupy it and make something of it. There is another reason too.

### THE LINE A NATIONAL NECESSITY.

There is the military side of the case which we must consider. We are giving all our thoughts to the development of trade and commerce, to the establishment of greater lines of communication which will draw the people of the various provinces closer together and enable them to understand each other better. But let us not forget completely the military side of this question. That single thread of railway, which unites the east and the west to-day, runs for hundreds of miles along the edge of Lake Superior within easy reach of a hostile power. Let us pray Heaven that the time may never come when difficulties will arise between the two great nations which occupy the great American continent. But heaven helps those who help themselves, and our prayers for peace and good-will are more likely to be heard if we do our part to make ourselves absolutely independent of these difficulties. Sir, it is the glory of this