

population people without a very great deal of means beyond the farms which they occupy, capable by their industry of living in comparative comfort, we have an opportunity for expansion by giving them lands in the newer districts of the two provinces which I have mentioned, which will enable those provinces to very largely increase their population, increase it perhaps within a comparatively early period to twice their present number of inhabitants. I might refer to the maritime provinces. Take Nova Scotia. That province to-day is having millions of dollars invested in its rich mines. The province of Nova Scotia is taking a new departure for the first time in its history since it entered confederation. There is every prospect that those who have gone abroad for the purpose of obtaining employment from that province during the past quarter of a century will find their way back to Nova Scotia again. The hopes of the people have been awakened. They have confidence in their own future which they did not possess to anything like the same extent a few years ago, and that being so, I say that everywhere the outlook of Canada is better than it has been at any time since confederation, and that the progress which has been made during the past three or four years is greater than it made during four or five times the same number of years previously. I shall not undertake to-day the discussion of the canal improvements to which my hon. friend has referred, and to say to what government belongs most credit for their construction. That is not necessary, more especially as there will be ample opportunities for considering that subject again; but I wish to refer to another subject which is uppermost in the public mind to-day, and that is the support which the government and people of Canada have given to the Imperial authorities in the war that is at present being waged in the Transvaal. I need not remind hon. gentlemen of the discussion which we had on this subject last session. The views which I entertained as to the merits of that question I expressed to the House then. I am not going to repeat them to-day. I think that the British government were entirely in the right, and without the abdication of their position as an empire in South Africa, it was utterly impossible for them to have avoided the conflict which exists. My hon.

friend complained that the government was dilatory—that they did not send troops as soon as they ought to have done so—that they did not make the offer to the Imperial government at as early a period as they should have done, and my hon. friend read a despatch of October 13, as if it were of October 14, stating the day on which that despatch was received in London at 8.20 in the morning, and as the corresponding hour here would have been 3 o'clock in the morning, my hon. friend knew right well that the despatch was not sent on the 14th.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—What I said was the despatch which was sent to Lord Minto was dated the 3rd of the month at 5.30 p.m., and according to the time which I did not mention at the time, but will now, if it had been sent immediately it would have been here at one o'clock in the afternoon. That is what I said.

Hon. Mr. MILLS.—That is what the hon. gentleman said of the despatch of the third, but I am speaking of what the hon. gentleman said of the despatch of the 13th. He read the date of the reception, the 14th. It was sent on the 13th and the receipt was on the 14th, and it was on the 14th at 8.20 in the morning. It is the proposal of the government here to give aid to the British government.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—The hon. gentleman must have misunderstood what I said with reference to the dates. I read the communication from the Colonial Secretary to the Governor General of Canada, and the order in council passed by the Canadian government.

Hon. Mr. MILLS.—The hon. gentleman referred to the despatch, and let me refer to the communication on page 19, in which he says :

Her Majesty the Queen desires to thank the people of her Dominion of Canada for their striking manifestation of loyalty and patriotism in their voluntary offer to send troops to co-operate with Her Majesty's Imperial Forces in maintaining her position and the rights of British subjects in South Africa. She wishes the troops God-speed and a safe return.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—What date was that ?

Hon. Mr. MILLS.—October 24.