

results before we come to conclusions about the great reforms the Postmaster General claims he has affected. We know the adoption of the two-cent rate for Canada will effect a very serious diminution in the receipts of the Post Office Department, and that will have to be made up by a tax in some other direction. We have now a tax on newspapers. The poor man has to pay on his newspaper for what the merchant saves in his correspondence. A merchant may save \$50 or \$100 a year in the reduced rate of postage and that will be divided over the farmers in the enhanced cost of newspapers and other things taxed to make up this deficit. I am not at all satisfied that it is a wise movement or that any great reform has been effected in the management of the Post Office Department. The advisers of His Excellency the Governor General have put into his mouth the following words :

Much information has been obtained since you last met relative to the extent and value of the deposits of gold and valuable minerals in the Yukon and other parts of Canada.

I must say I was very much pleased, indeed, when I saw this paragraph. I was delighted to know that hon. gentlemen opposite had got much information on the Yukon country, for my recollection of these gentlemen and their position before parliament a year ago, made me believe they needed information with regard to that country. There was almost worse than Egyptian darkness in the government circles when they introduced the Teslin Lake Railway Bill. We remember the speech made by a distinguished member of the cabinet on its introduction in the House of Commons, and we remember during the discussions on that bill the gentlemen in the government, although they claimed to know things they could not tell us, yet as far as they were able to communicate their information, they knew absolutely nothing, and it turned out we had to take their statements exactly as they gave them to us, that even the information that had been given to them through their own officials, and which had reached them months before, they had not made the acquaintance of until after they had undertaken to deal with the question in parliament. Mr. Ogilvie's report they scarcely knew anything about until it was brought to their attention in this House. I am delighted to find that hon. gentlemen opposite have received, as they say themselves, much infor-

mation regarding the Yukon country, and I hope the result of this enlightenment will be to give us better legislation with regard to that country than were offered to this House during the last session of parliament. I was reminded when I read this statement about the flood of information that had come in upon them, of a story I read in one of Smollet's novels. His Majesty, the King of England, had been greatly disturbed by disquieting rumours which had come to him from America. The French were said to be in full march from Cape Breton to Grand Pré, a most alarming state of things indeed, and the King's mind was greatly disturbed. He communicated the information to his Prime Minister, the Earl of Bute, who went forthwith to find what light he could gain about this alarming information. He met a gentleman very soon after, and to him he mentioned the disquieting information that the King had received. His friend at once replied : "Tut, tut ! there is nothing in that. Cape Breton is an island, and the French could not march from there at this time of the year." "Is Cape Breton an island ?" said the Premier. "I must go and tell His Majesty at once. He will be delighted to hear it." I hope part of the information that these hon. gentlemen have received is that Wrangel is on an island and is part of the United States. They seemed to be last year under the impression that the mouth of the Stikine River was British territory and that Wrangel was under the control of this country. I hope and trust that a part of this great light that has come upon the government in regard to the Yukon country will deal with the geography of the country, so that hon. gentlemen opposite will be a little better informed on the subject than they were last year.

My hon. friend the leader of the House has dealt very extensively with the question of the redistribution of seats, a bill in relation to which has been promised to us in the speech. My hon. friend, like the mover of the Address, seemed to be very nervous and uneasy less anybody should think that anything like a gerrymander was contemplated by the government. Call it by some other name, he says ; we do not want you to dub our bill a gerrymander at the outset. It reminded me of the old phrase about orthodoxy and heterodoxy ; orthodoxy is my doxy and heterodoxy is another man's doxy." If the bill were presented by a Tory