

Reference was made by some hon. gentleman, whom I do not now remember, to the appointment of Major Walsh; and with reference to that I may say that, although Major Walsh was appointed somewhere about the middle of August, he only accepted the post upon the express condition that he should not be asked to leave before the 15th of September. It is not a light thing for a man to accept a post involving the imminent risk of his life, involving the entire uprooting of all his business and social relations; but Major Walsh loyally accepted the position which was tendered him by the Government. He has loyally done the work, done it in a manner beyond all praise, and for which this country will ever owe Major Walsh a debt of gratitude; but he was justified in making the condition that he should not be asked to take his departure for the Yukon until the 15th of September. When the 15th of September came, we had reports to the mounted police officials here, showing that the officers who had consented to go through the White Pass with their supplies had been struggling in that pass amidst the rain and the mud and all the frightful difficulties which accumulated around them there; and they had almost utterly failed to get the supplies necessary for them across that pass. All they could think of doing was to get twenty men through, with the supplies necessary to take them to Dawson City. The remainder of the men were stuck in the pass. The Government approved of the suggestion that I should go out with Major Walsh, and take such steps as were necessary to overcome the difficulties. I went with Major Walsh; no time was lost; and from that time to this, without cessation, Major Walsh and his men have been labouring under difficulties of which the members of this House can have no possible conception, for the purpose of provisioning and keeping up the posts in the task of saving the lives of the unfortunate men who are constantly going out. While my hon. friend treats this question with that jocularity which he can assume so well, and with that fierce abusiveness which he can assume equally well, but neither of which was particularly adapted to the discussion of such important public business, I think the Dominion of Canada can afford to look with some degree of pride at the fact that from the summit of the mountains, where the provisional boundary line is marked, to the 141st meridian, there is no starvation, and that there is just as good law and order as there is upon the streets of the city of Ottawa—that the word of an officer of the Canadian Government in that district is law, even if it is sent by letter by a dog-driver to a man a hundred or a hundred and fifty miles away. That has not been done without some self-sacrifice and some effort. I take no credit for it, but I claim credit for the men who have overcome difficulties that have not been over-

come, so far as I am aware, by any other men connected with the administration of the affairs of the Government of Canada. I believe, Sir, that our American friends are in a state of total helplessness in regard to their territory. General Alger, the Secretary of War, being sick, and unable to come here for the purpose of getting information, the War Department expressed themselves as almost totally without the requisite information to deal with the question they had to deal with—because they had almost the same state of affairs in their territory that we had in ours. General Alger telegraphed asking me to go to Washington for the purpose of giving them information, because he was lying sick in bed. My hon. friend taunts me with wanting to go to Washington. I saw nothing wrong in going to Washington to give United States officers information which would enable them to extend relief to starving people of the United States, and I would be willing again to go to Washington for that purpose if I thought it possible to effect thereby the saving of even one life in that district. Even the American press, particularly on the Pacific Coast, not too friendly to ourselves or even to myself, because they credit me, not altogether wrongly, with making pretty strong efforts to assist our friends in Victoria and Vancouver, and incidentally and indirectly the merchants and manufacturers of Canada generally in getting their share—and their share ought to be the whole—of the Klondike trade; the newspapers published on the Puget Sound, at Tacoma, at Seattle and at other places in the United States, without a single exception, give the strongest testimony to the fact that our officers, from Major Walsh's camp down to the summit of the mountains, where for the present the Canadian jurisdiction ceases, have been indefatigable and most successful in preventing starvation; and up to this time, so far as my information goes, not one single man has died of starvation on that terrible route. Somebody the other night—I think it was the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace)—in a sarcastic tone, wanted to know why Major Walsh was camped far from Dawson City. In the name of common sense, what would he be doing at Dawson City? We have forty mounted policemen and a sufficient staff of officers there to do the work. Major Walsh is at the place where he was told to stay, attending to the business he was sent to attend to; and when in his good judgment every provision has been made there for the purpose of meeting emergencies, then, and not till then, he will go on to Dawson City to do the work which is intended to be done there. I would not like to be here to have to explain that Major Walsh and his men had gone on and locked themselves up at Dawson City, and left the people to get out as they could, and perhaps starve on