

duct to a successful completion the gigantic work without imposing on our population too heavy burdens, "The future is in the west," exclaimed Jefferson in the United States in 1818. That prophecy must have encountered unbelievers, but it has been realised in an astonishing manner. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is my firm conviction that more than one honourable member of this House will probably see the day when Manitoba, Keewatin, British Columbia, and the other Provinces which are to be carved out of the solitary regions of our great West—the famous "uppercountry" of our pioneers—will challenge our preponderance in the Union. Already an important part of our population is setting out to take possession of the fertile prairies of the Red River, and, before long, of the Saskatchewan. We see in operation here the same economic phenomena which in the United States depopulates New England for the benefit of the West. Manitoba has already begun to export her cereals, and her incomparable wheat will be found hereafter in all the markets of the world. The commercial and agricultural progress and growth of our young Province will be considerably hastened by the recent construction of the Pembina Railway, giving a rapid communication with the civilized world. But the Government have understood the necessity of binding at the earliest moment our North-West and Lake Superior, so that that region may directly pour its products into Canadian territory, and the country will learn, with profound satisfaction, that this branch will soon be in full course of construction. The Pacific Railway, Mr. Speaker, will be the best engine of colonisation in these immense solitudes, by drawing in its train, as by magic, thousands of emigrants, and the day is not distant when the hunting grounds of the buffalo and antelopes will become vast cultivated fields supporting innumerable herds of domestic animals. On the shores of our great lakes, real inland seas, will arise great cities rivalling St. Paul, Milwaukee and Chicago; and these watery wastes which have hitherto borne only the frail bark canoe of the Indian, will be furrowed by thousands of vessels freighted with the products of that inexhaustible region.

MR. TASSÉ.

Then, when borne on the wings of steam, the locomotive will climb the Rocky Mountains, and make its powerful voice heard for the first time in the pine forests of British Columbia,—among the distant electors represented by the right honourable the leader of the Government. We shall then be able to congratulate ourselves upon having established Confederation upon a solid basis, secured its commercial independence, and executed the most gigantic work that a people of our numbers ever had the boldness to conceive and still more the good fortune to accomplish. We shall then have completed an enterprise whose effects upon the commerce of the world it is difficult to foresee, for we shall have constructed the shortest route between Europe and Asia; we shall then have realised the dream of Christopher Columbus, of Jacques Cartier, and many other discoverers, and, pursuing their idea, we shall have reached, marching always towards the West, that ancient Orient whose riches, ever coveted by Europeans, constitute so large a portion of the wealth and power of England. Yes, this road has an importance not confined to Canada, but extending to the commercial interests of the Mother Country, who cannot well refuse to aid us in its execution. More than thirty years ago, Lord Bury exclaimed, in the English Parliament: "Our commerce in the Pacific Ocean with China, Japan and India, must eventually pass through our North American Provinces. In any case," he added, "we shall have lost our commercial supremacy the day when we neglect this important consideration; and, if we fail to cultivate the physical advantages which that country offers us, we shall deserve our fate." Mr. Speaker, if, turning our eyes from these encouraging prospects, we come to regard the actual condition of the country, the picture which presents itself to our view is far from satisfactory. The Speech from the Throne, so lately but the echo of our prosperity, announces a considerable deficit in our public revenue. Our commerce is paralysed, our industries are languishing, our labouring classes are without work, property has fallen enormously in value, in fact everybody is suffering from an unexampled depression in intensity and duration. It is important, then, to re-