

ancial year, to the extent of some ten million dollars. I will not weary the House by pointing out what was the cause of this falling off in the export trade, but the exports as well as the imports increase and decrease just in proportion to the wants of the people and the supplies that they have over and above what are required for consumption. I am at a loss to know how the English treaty with Japan is going to affect us materially in our trade with that country. If the hon. gentleman read the Premier's Toronto speech to which I have already called attention, they will find that he boasted in eloquent language that he can use so well, that as a result of the construction of this Transcontinental Railway ere long the tea and products of the Orient would be flowing through this country to the east. One would suppose in reading that sentence that this had never been done before, and that we were just opening up a trade with the Orient. We all know that for ten or fifteen years, through the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway the placing upon the Pacific ocean of Canadian steamships, the subsidizing of the Canadian Pacific Railway Steamships and of the Canadian-Australian Line, that the sugar, the rice, the tea and the coffee from the Orient have been rolling through the Rocky mountains down through the eastern portion of Canada even to the maritime provinces, for the last ten or fifteen years; yet when the Premier of this country spoke before an intelligent audience and announced that trade with the Orient would be opened up by the construction of the Transcontinental Railway, and they cheered. They would cheer anything he might say because of his eloquence and his admirable choice of language. No one could hear him speak without being pleased; but they all knew just as well as we know, that that trade had already been created. I hope the construction of the Northern Railway on which we are now expending such an immense amount of money, will increase and develop that trade. As facilities are furnished so will trade increase, but when the present government arrogate to themselves praise and honour for having created that trade, I must be excused if I take exception to the statement.

Next His Excellency refers to the necessity for the preservation of our forests. Any

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

one who knows the condition of the lumbering districts in eastern Canada will echo that opinion. Travelling as I have done through my old constituency where the fire has destroyed hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of timber, I am aware of the rapid destruction that is overtaking our forests. I am sure we all fully approve of that portion of the speech, but it contains one sentence which strikes me as rather peculiar—that is the proposition to establish a system of forest reserves, I should like to ask where that is to be done. The forest and timber in the old provinces belong to the local governments. All the valuable timber is to be found in those provinces where the Dominion have no more control over it than they have over the ordinary roads and bridges.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It says 'lands subject to its control.'

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—That does not change my position in the least. The only forests that are under the control of the Dominion are in the provinces of the Northwest Territories, and the timber in those provinces we all know is very limited.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN (De Lanaudière)—Ungava.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I feel inclined to ask where is Ungava? The country east of Hudson bay and James bay known as Ungava is largely controlled by the province of Quebec and Newfoundland. There is, I admit, a considerable area which may belong to the Dominion, but until the question of jurisdiction is settled it is doubtful if the Dominion will take much trouble in dealing with the preservation of the forests in that region. I may add that from all I can learn there is very little timber of any value in all that district. The timber in the Northwest Territories on this side of the Rocky mountains, I agree with the government, should be preserved as far as possible, and I am very glad to know that it is intended to have forest reserves. But if the timber is to be preserved it will be of little benefit to the people of the Northwest until the trees grow to merchantable size. By forest reserves I presume plantations are meant.

The next paragraph in the address is one of very great importance. It calls attention to the fact that the garrisoning of