

they have bestowed on me, notwithstanding the fact that I speak a language which is not understood by a great number of the members of this House. Before taking my seat I humbly ask permission to second the motion now placed before the House by the hon. member from Glengarry (Mr. Macmaster).

Mr. BLAKE. Mr. Speaker, although the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Macmaster) closed his address to the House by declining to tender the traditional apology, I will not so far follow his example as to decline to tender the traditional compliment, and I will assure you, that so far as I could judge, he has not merely, on this occasion, been provided with that which he seemed to think essential to a gentleman of his profession—a brief—but he stuck to it with very commendable accuracy of thought and attention, and he paid, it seems to me, a poor compliment to those who entrusted him with the honor of moving the Address when he declared himself to be in want of that essential preliminary to an advocate's speech. My hon. friend, if he will allow me to call him so, who seconded the motion, opened his observations by complaining of the task imposed upon him as a young member, and he said that he thought from his point of view, as I understood him, it ought to be some of the older hon. members, who were more accustomed to these matters, who had had more to do with them, who were more responsible for them, who should be called upon to explain, in a fuller and more authoritative manner than he could hope to do, the topics which were under discussion. But the hon. gentleman, after having made that apology, which the hon. gentleman from Glengarry disdained to make, proceeded to discuss those matters in a manner which indicated, I think, that he was also fully equal to the task imposed upon him. There was, it is true, on one occasion at any rate, some slight discrepancy in the statements of the hon. gentlemen, but, generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, I may say that both of them adhered tolerably well to the text of the document which they were asked to give their assent to, and to which they were inviting the assent of this Chamber. That document is long, but, though long, it is, perhaps, quite as remarkable for what it omits as for what it contains. I entirely agree with the paragraph, and with the expressions upon that paragraph, which have reference to the nobleman who has been lately appointed to preside over us. It is a fortunate circumstance that for many years we should have had a succession of distinguished gentlemen as Viceroys of Canada, and it is a fortunate circumstance also, I think, that they are men who, having already approved themselves to be fit for that position, by the place they have taken in public affairs of the Mother Country, were yet men in the prime and vigor of life, fully equal to an energetic and active discharge of those functions which devolve even upon a constitutional Governor here, and of whom we may fairly expect that they come here to improve and increase their credit and reputation; to approve themselves capable of still higher positions in that public service to which they have devoted themselves; and, therefore, there is every inducement to their discharging, as those in the past have discharged, to the full their duty to the country. We do not expect, as I once before observed here, from those who come to rule over us, indiscriminate praise and eulogy, but we are entitled to expect, and I am glad to say we do receive, marks of an abiding attachment on the part of those who have remained among us for five or six years, towards this country, and a public exhibition of that abiding attachment and interest in the country, which certainly must be, as the hon. gentlemen have observed, of great advantage to us in the country to which we look for so much, in reference to our development, and our relations with which are so important. I feel, Mr. Speaker, very glad indeed to learn that some arrangements have been made, which the

Government think they may with confidence submit to Parliament, for closing all questions at issue between the Province of British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada. It would be entirely premature to discuss, in any detail, the particular arrangements with respect to which the papers are not before us, but which, we are informed, we shall certainly receive full information about within a very short time. I was a little amused to observe, however, the principles upon which this settlement, in its main feature, was based, as publicly announced by the envoy of the Administration in the Province of British Columbia. I should have supposed that the settlement was based upon a fair and liberal consideration of what the claims were of British Columbia upon Canada, but I find that it was not so—that it was upon other considerations—upon the considerations of the claims of the city of Victoria upon the First Minister. I quote from the report of the speech of the Minister of Justice at Victoria, in which he announced that result:

“With reference to the Settlement Bill, as it is called by the Local Administration, Sir Alexander Campbell assured the deputation, reiterating the language of his colleague, Sir John Macdonald, that the Government of the Dominion has every intention to see that the line between Esquimalt and Nanaimo is constructed. This, Sir John A. considers a debt which he owes to Victoria, for the confidence placed in him by the electors, when they returned him as their representative.”

Mr. Speaker, an honest man pays his debts, but he pays them with his own money. But the hon. gentleman proposes to pay his debts, incurred in the constituencies which honor him with their confidence, at our expense, and this is formally announced in the course of the discussion which results in the settlement which is to be brought before us. I was a little amused, also, to observe that the arrangement involves a surrender to the Americans. I find that a large company is incorporated for the construction of the Island Railway, and that it is composed of sundry magnates who are very well known to fame, and who are interested, the hon. member for Glengarry may be surprised to hear, in the hostile railway—the Union Pacific Railway. I find the name of C. B. Huntington; I find the name of Mr. Gregory; I find the name of Mr. Stanford. I find names familiar to most of us, as magnates of the Pacific coast—kings of that country virtually by reason of their connection with the Pacific Railway—with whom hon. gentlemen opposite are contracting, and to whom they propose to surrender the coal lands and various privileges connected with the construction of the railway. They are useful persons to deal with, I have no doubt, as the publication of the recent correspondence in connection with the Pacific Railway proves, and I hope the hon. gentleman was extremely careful to caution his colleague when he dealt with these gentlemen—whose letters are before me in part, and I would read them if I had no other matters of importance to discuss—to caution him that such things should not happen in Canada as happened in railway negotiations with the same parties in the neighboring country. Now, the Speech alludes to the North-West, and the only reference that is made to the general condition of that country is a reference to the rapid increase of population which has taken place, and which is said to necessitate some further amendment of some of the laws affecting the territory. But the hon. gentlemen who were supplied with the brief on this occasion had, I think, in this particular, some reason to complain, because upon former occasions the brief contained the figures for the immigration to the North-West. Upon former occasions we were told at an early day, by the authority of the Government conveyed to those hon. gentlemen, what the figures were for the year. We have not got them for this year. Total figures have been given us; figures have been given us with reference to immigration from the United States, but we are not told what the increase to the population of the North-West was. Is it uncharitable in me to conjecture that it is because the