

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Had the hon. gentleman, when he brought up the question the other day, moved for these papers, his motion would have been granted. The answer from the department is that this section of the road was, at the time the last inspection was made, in good running condition, and that the Intercolonial Railway officials had many times informed the company that they are prepared to exchange traffic within convenient time. There is very little, if any, correspondence on the subject, as the matter has been discussed by personal interviews, but I will bring down what papers there are.

Mr. MITCHELL. The hon. gentleman will see how important it is that I should be able, as representing that county, to give an intelligent account of how the thing is being done.

TRENT VALLEY COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. BARRON. Will the right hon. gentleman inform the House if the Trent Valley Canal Commissioners have yet reported, and if they have not, when they are likely to report? Will he also state whether he is aware that one of these commissioners has left this country on a long visit to the old country, notwithstanding the fact that the work was finished some time ago?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No report has yet been received. I do not think there is any chance of a report being transmitted to the department this Session. How long after that it will be presented, I am not able to say. I am aware that one of the commissioners is now on the other side of the water, and how long he will be there I cannot tell.

SUPPLY—THE JESUITS' ESTATES ACT.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Foster: That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go again into Committee of Supply; and the motion of Mr. O'Brien in amendment.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I have watched with attention the proceedings in this debate, not with more attention to what has been said by hon. gentlemen who have taken part in the debate than to the manner in which it has so far been conducted. Since I have had a seat in Parliament, I do not remember any subject which has come before the House that has exhibited the tactical skill of the hon. the First Minister to greater advantage than this discussion. The hon. gentleman finds himself face to face with what may become a dangerous agitation, involving the Administration of which he is the head. That agitation was begun by a journal conducted with more than ordinary ability, and characterised by what may be called a spirit of aggressive Protestantism; and it has gradually drawn to its side a large portion of the press of this country, and a very great deal of discussion adverse to the conduct of the Government has taken place in public meetings at several places in the Province of Ontario. Well, the hon. gentleman, in order to meet the dangers of the position, seems to have divided his forces that he may be in a position to control both sides. He has appointed his lieutenants—the hon. the Minister of Justice to lead one section of the hon. gentleman's forces, and the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) to lead another section of those forces. So the hon. gentleman has made such arrangements as to bring back to the support of the Government any that might be inclined to go astray. If they are dissatisfied with the conduct of the First Minister, they are at all events not dissatisfied with the position taken by his ardent and faithful supporter, the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy). Now, the business of each of these two distinguished lieutenants is to look carefully after

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his own division of the grand Conservative army, and I have no doubt that these two hon. gentlemen have, in the estimation of their friends, discharged the duties assigned to them by their chief with a great deal of ability and a great deal of skill; and I am sure that the hon. gentleman must feel equally grateful to his colleague, the Minister of Justice, and to his supporter, the hon. member for North Simcoe. This is not the only feature of this discussion worthy of notice. There is the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien), who moves this resolution, and makes a very ardent and somewhat unreasonable Protestant speech, and there is another hon. gentleman, who, so far as I know since I have been in Parliament, has never been found voting against the Administration, the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Rykert), who is put up to answer the other ardent supporter of the Government, the hon. member for Muskoka. Then, the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), speaking after these hon. gentlemen, and after the hon. the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Colby), tells the House that he will not take the trouble to answer the arguments which were addressed to the House by the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Rykert). He tells us that that hon. member does not fear his constituents, because he never expects to return to them, that he is soon to go to his reward, that he has in this House no abiding place, that his labors as a supporter of the Administration, in this House, are drawing to a close, and that every day he is pitching his tent a day's march nearer the place where he expects to be. The hon. gentleman expects, according to the information afforded to the House by the hon. member for North Simcoe, soon to be gathered, not to his fathers, but to the fathers, where scrap books will be no longer required, and where all anxiety, as to the future of an election, will be dispensed with. That is the position presented to the House by the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) in regard to the hon. member for Lincoln. Then the hon. member for North Simcoe told us of the position of another supporter of the Government, the Deputy Speaker of this House (Mr. Colby). He told us that the roseate speech of the Deputy Speaker, in regard to the perfect harmony existing between the two sections of the population in the Province of Quebec, was due to thankfulness either for favors received or for those which were to come. The hon. member said the Deputy Speaker was expectant of future promotion, but the hon. gentleman did not wish to hear from a Minister *in futuro*, but from one who was actually in possession of the Treasury benches.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He did hear it.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). In fact, the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) gives a representation of the Deputy Speaker which reminds me of a statement in Lord Beaconsfield's "Endymion." In describing one of the characters in that book, the author says he had a feeling in his bosom which he was not very sure whether it was gratitude or indigestion; and so the hon. member for North Simcoe says that the able speech made by the Deputy Speaker was the outcome of some motive, either of favor already received or of favor to be received from the Government, but he was not very sure which. Now, the hon. member for North Simcoe, while he described the motives which actuated those with whom he is associated on that side, and the feeling which induced them to speak in support of the position of the Government, failed to give us any information as to the motives by which he was actuated himself. I do not say that the hon. gentleman was looking forward to a seat upon the Treasury benches. I do not know that such a position would have any attractions for him. It is quite possible that it might not have; but I remember very well the support which that hon. gentleman has given the Government in past Sessions. I remember that Railway Commission