

Government were going to do anything to seek to relieve the depression from which the country suffers, or that we were, during this Session to do anything which would result to the advantage of the country, but there seems to be no prospect of usefulness. We are told there is nothing to call us together except the ordinary business of the country, and we are not promised any measures likely to belie this somewhat bald announcement of the reasons for summoning us together.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.—I am sure every gentleman who listened to the hon. the leader of the Opposition, concurs in the sentiments he expressed towards the new member who moved the Address. I think the evidence he gave in moving it, proves that the House has received a great accession in his presence here. He is a gentleman largely conversant with the business of the country, and is in every way competent to express his views. I am happy to hear my hon. friend congratulating the Government on the selection they made of the Senator from Montreal. The hon. gentleman has not indulged in any strong criticism of the Speech from the Throne on this occasion. He concurs, and I have no doubt, this House and the country will concur in the greater part of the Speech. He takes exception in the first place, however, to the reference made to the new avenues that are now being opened up to the North-West. He speaks of two routes, one from Lake Superior, and the other through the United States, with one of which he thinks we might have used greater dispatch. Of course the route from Lake Superior to Selkirk is being pushed forward as fast as the finances of the country will permit, and very considerable progress has been made on the other, between Winnipeg and Pembina. He thinks the rails should have been laid in order to facilitate trade going into Manitoba. I beg to differ from him. It would have afforded the Government great gratification, if they could see by going on with that branch that they could have facilitated the settlement, or lessened the freight or transportation into Manitoba and the North-West. My hon. friend is aware also that there is no railway communication up to the boundary past two or three years, have had repeated communications with parties who are in-

*Hon. Mr. Campbell.*

interested in the line south of the boundary, and forming a junction between the Northern Pacific Railway and the Pembina Branch, but owing to difficulties, which we need not now discuss, it was impossible to have that hiatus filled. I believe I am safe in saying that by August next not only will the gap between Pembina and Winnipeg be filled, but an all-rail route will be opened up. The laying down of rails between Winnipeg and Pembina would have been of no advantage, inasmuch as the River Company would have controlled the traffic. It is quite obvious that the company in possession of the upper end of the river would have control of the fifty or sixty miles north of the line, and, therefore, no advantage would have been secured by the construction of that portion. However, I am happy to inform the House that we have information which is reliable that this gap will be constructed, and before the month of August next, the all-rail route will be secured to Winnipeg. My hon. friend, who has always taken a broad view of the Indian question, concurs with the Government in the mode of settling Indian claims. It was impossible, after commencing to settle with the Indians west of Manitoba, not to continue the arrangement with them up to the Rocky Mountains. It was impossible, even in the construction of the telegraph line, to obtain the right of way without promising to make treaties with them. It was impossible to go in there with any hope of peaceable settlement without dealing with them in the same way as with the Indians in the eastern part of the country. The policy, not only of this Government, but of preceding ones, has been one of great liberality in dealing with the Indians, and we know that the cost of securing territory from them in that way has been much less than the less merciful policy of the United States. I do not agree with my hon. friend that the cause of the failure of the United States to secure peaceable possession of the Indian lands is that they have a smaller unoccupied territory. I attribute it rather to their inability to prevent white men from trespassing on the Indian reserves. The difficulties with the Sioux are due to the attraction which the gold in the Black Hills has offered to the whites, and wherever such attractions have existed, it