

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—Quite right.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I would not have referred to the Agent General at all at present, but for the remarks of the right hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman's remarks with regard to the railway are quite to the point, and the subject has occupied my serious attention and the attention of the Government. The running of the railway is a matter of great consequence to the country and serious embarrassment to the revenue; but such measures must be adopted by the Government and this House as will utilize to the best advantage the great public work for the benefit of the Provinces and the country, and no former difference between the hon. gentleman and myself respecting the route can be considered for a moment as determining our action with regard to this road. The immediate question to which he has called my attention now has especial reference to the terminus of the road at the western end, and that also has occupied the attention of the Government. The hon. gentleman regrets, in common with all others, the delay which has taken place in connection with the Fisheries Arbitration at Washington; but he seems to think that it will be possible for us to give some information to the House and to the country concerning the reasons which prevent the United States Government from taking the only step necessary in order to insure some progress being made. With reference to that I can only say we have no such information to communicate, and the allusion to it in the Speech from the Throne covers all that we have to say at present. The hon. gentleman says, in looking over the Speech he finds in this and other Speeches since our accession to office, that we have borne testimony to the wisdom of the late Administration, as we have not repealed their acts. He forgets that many measures of the late Government were measures that were really modelled and fashioned by ourselves when sitting on that side of the House. The hon. gentleman asserts, however, that some of his measures are now embalmed. An hon. gentle-

man behind me suggests that they cannot be embalmed until they are dead, so if the gentleman's measures are not in such a state it is due to the present Government, as they only remained as printed documents until passed by us; but it is not for me to find fault with the statement of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman points to the Speech from the Throne as a very innocent and harmless document. The hon. gentleman last Session also commented upon the meager bill of fare presented, but if he will observe the volume since printed he will find that the bill of fare was a large one, and an exceedingly important one, and I think if he compares our first volume with any of his own he will find that it was not exceeded in value by any volume during the time the hon. gentleman lead the House himself. I have anticipated some of the hon. gentleman's objections and have taken the trouble to look over former Speeches, and I find that there are very important, very remarkable things to be found therein. I find that the hon. gentleman during seven consecutive Sessions brought down a General Election Law; it never came up but once; then it disappeared like magic and never appeared again except in the Speech. As my hon. friend remembers, the Election Law was promised seven times in the Speech; the Court of Appeal was promised three times, the Insolvency Law was promised three times, the Inspection Laws were promised three times; a Dominion Board of Agriculture was promised three times; a measure on Banking was promised three times, and during the last Session of the hon. gentleman's Government he did not bring in a single new measure. They were all a mere repetition of former promises, and the hon. gentleman actually missed the only event of importance that took place during that Session. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman expresses the hope that the economy we have promised in controlling expenditures in every branch of the public service will not be of such a character as will retard the execution of works necessary for the prosperity of the country. The great public works commenced by the hon gentle-