

years ; and, unless some change is made in the tariff, there seems to be no probability that the West India trade, a most important one to us, will recover. Honourable gentlemen may think that the West India trade, and the sugar business may be exceptions to the general rule in the province of Nova Scotia, but there are other criteria of the prosperity of the country of which that cannot be said—they are criteria which are almost infallible. There is no better criterion of the prosperity of any city, county or district than the value of land. The value of land in the Province of Nova Scotia at large, and especially in the city of Halifax, has gone down very materially during the last few years. At the present day the value of property in Halifax is not more than two-thirds of what it was ten years ago. The process of depreciation in the value of land in that city has continued almost steadily since 1877.

HON. MR. CARVELL—Are you not glad of it ?

HON. MR. POWER—I am not glad of it ; I am very sorry, as I have reason to be. There is another criterion of the state of business in a country, that is the condition of the banks. Now the banks in Nova Scotia are worse off to-day than they have been, I should say, for 25 or 30 years. I have in my desk a petition from a bank which has been doing business there for some thirty years, asking for a reduction of its capital to one-half. The dividends of the banks have been largely reduced ; and we had not long ago in the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, the manager of the largest local bank in Nova Scotia declaring that business generally was depressed, that the condition of the banking business was most unsatisfactory, and that there was very little prospect of its improvement. Probably that is enough to say on such an occasion as this with respect to that particular matter. I may be pardoned if I make one more remark on the subject. The hon. gentleman from Lauzon, in the admirable speech in which he moved the Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech, spoke of the progress that we have made since 1867. Now, whatever progress may have been made in the Province of Quebec or other

provinces, in Nova Scotia it has been largely of a retrograde character, and the Province does not stand as well to day as it stood in 1867.

The second paragraph of His Excellency's Speech deals with the question of the recent disturbances in the North-West Territories. I am happy to be able to join with the hon. gentleman from Lauzon in speaking in terms of warm praise of the conduct of our volunteers. They conducted themselves on the whole in a way that would have done credit to regular soldiers ; and I think that the Militia Department deserves the greatest credit for the manner in which it contrived to put so large a body of troops on so distant a field of action in so short a time and with so little loss, and in getting their supplies there. I regret to notice, from the tone of this paragraph of His Excellency's Speech, that there appears to be some foundation for the rumors of a threatened Indian uprising in the North West. He says : "it will be the duty of my Government to make such precautionary arrangements as will assure the present inhabitants as well as intending settlers of efficient protection against all disturbance." Considering that there are already two batteries out there, this intimation that more troops are to be sent to the North West would seem to indicate that the Government feel that there is a danger of a further rising.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—There is no specific reason for the apprehension. We have no direct evidence to indicate in any way that there is any difficulty to be apprehended there ; it is simply a precautionary measure.

HON. MR. POWER—I am happy to hear that, and I regret that the Government think it necessary to send additional forces to the North West. We must admit that while the recent disturbance was a loss to the country at large, to a number of people in the North West, it was a great gain ; and I presume no one is more alive, than the leader of this House is, to the fact that parties pecuniarily interested in that way are likely to contrive to create an impression that there is danger in order that more money may be spent in that country. I think these stories of probable