

Mr. GUTHRIE (South Wellington) moved the resolution in reply to the Speech from the Throne. After craving as a new member the indulgence of the House while endeavouring to deal with subjects of such importance to the Dominion at large, he called attention to the period of the year at which Parliament had been called together for the past three sessions, and suggested that the opening should take place even earlier, so that the legislative business might be closed before spring opened. Adverting to the Governor General's visit to British Columbia, he remarked that His Excellency had visited almost every part of the Dominion, and his visits had been received everywhere with marked appreciation. That satisfaction which he expressed having felt, has been felt in return towards him by the people. From His Excellency's speeches it was manifest that he felt a real pride in the country over which he is Governor, and the country was equally proud of its Governor. A great benefit would undoubtedly be derived from the addresses delivered by Lord Dufferin, and his recent speech at the Toronto Club perhaps excelled all previous ones, admirable as they were. The next paragraph in the Speech from the Throne contained matter partly for congratulation and partly for regret. It was satisfactory to find that the surveys of that great national work, the Pacific Railway, had been pushed forward with vigour, and that the expenditure upon them had been greater during the past than any previous year. But it was not agreeable to find that the work was so great and the difficulties so formidable. Sufficient progress had not been made to enable contracts to be let. Every one must admit that it was indispensably necessary before contracts were let or tenders asked, that the location of the road should be completed; but it was indeed not surprising that further delay was necessary when consideration was given to the character of the country which the road would traverse, and the difficulty experienced in finding a suitable scaport as an outlet for the railway; and it was no matter of surprise that the greatest care had been necessary on the part of the engineers in

selecting a route, especially when that selection might increase or diminish the expenditure by twenty million dollars. The question of the extradition of criminals between this country and the United States was one of much importance. The treaty which had been for many years in operation was lately suspended, but it had been restored. That circumstance was a matter for congratulation and satisfaction, because, lying as Canada does along a widely extended frontier, with ample means of communication with the adjoining Republic, it was of more importance to the Dominion than to the mother country that the treaty should be in force. It was moreover a source of gratification to find that negotiations were pending with a view of largely extending the class of crimes to be embraced in the extradition treaty. Although the crimes for which offenders might now be extradited were of a grave character, they were comparatively few in number, and the crimes most common in our midst were those for which no provision was made in the treaty—such as larceny, embezzlement, and fraudulent removal of assets by bankrupt traders. He hoped the result of the negotiations would be to have not only a treaty more extended in its operations, but containing provisions framed for its perfect working. Indeed, there was no reason why the operation of the treaty should be confined to what might be called the more serious crimes. Neither Canada nor the United States desired their countries to become asylums for criminals, and the treaty might include the lesser crimes with benefit to both peoples. They were informed in the Speech that steps had been taken to amend the Royal Commission and the Instructions of the Governor General in some respects in which they contained anomalous provisions understood to be inconsistent with our constitutional freedom and that system of responsible government which we enjoy. The anomalies referred to were chiefly: First, the power possessed by the Governor General to pardon a prisoner convicted of a capital offence without the advice or even against the advice of his Council; and, second, the power possessed by him to disallow any act