

treaty there should be, would be derogatory either to the honor or the interests of this country. He believed this House would generally re-echo the Governor-General's expression of regret at the avowed deficiency in the revenue, for he (Mr Penny) thought few of them would believe it was an advantage to a country that its taxation should be augmented. This was not the time to inquire as to the causes of this condition of things; but he was quite satisfied that so far as our concurrence was necessary, they would cheerfully concur in any sacrifices which might be required to maintain the credit of the country. He knew nothing of the plans by which our able Finance Minister would endeavor to redress the balance between his expenditure and receipts. But if he (Mr. Penny) might make one suggestion to him from that place, it would be to allow himself to be guided solely by his own necessities as the guardian of the public Treasury and credit, and his obligation to procure the necessary revenue in the most economical and least burdensome manner. He trusted that the Finance Minister will take for his guide the light of science, not the rigmarole of quackery, and that he would not commit the absurd blunder of trying to ride two provincial horses under whatever name it might be disguised, that is to say, of seeking to augment his revenue from duties on importations, by imposing duties which must prohibit the importations from which the revenue is to be collected. And in this connection he could not but remark with pleasure the justice of the concluding paragraph of the the Speech from the Throne, in which his Excellency congratulates them upon the prosperity of the country, notwithstanding the depression which has prevailed elsewhere. They knew that that depression had been the cause in some in some places of intense suffering, and though he was not disposed to impute such effects exclusively to one cause, he might, perhaps not unfairly, set up our own prosperity during the trying times which our neighbours had passed through, in opposition to those who would invite us to change our own wholesome fiscal system for that which had been coincident with, if it had not produced, the misery to which he had referred. The hon. gentleman concluded by moving the Address in reply to the speech.

Hon. Mr. PANET said that on him had devolved the position, always a difficult one to a new member, of seconding the Address in reply to the Speech from the

Throne. He regretted not having been endowed with the same eloquence and brilliant elocution of the hon. gentleman who had just spoken and who had done so well; nevertheless he felt proud of his position in having an opportunity as the junior member of the House of addressing them. He had listened with admiration to the eloquent and dignified speech of his hon. friend, and after the able manner in which he had treated the various questions mentioned in the Address, he would not tax their patience by a long speech. He would say that it would be unjust if they did not accept the reason for not calling Parliament together sooner, from the fact that the general elections took place at the usual time of their assembling. But they might entertain the hope that in future they would be called together about the month of February. If the general election had caused this delay, it had furnished them with several subjects for reflection, which will be useful in the legislation proposed in the Address. The simultaneousness of the elections advised by the Government have had a useful result, and the law which was promised in the speech would, he hoped, sanction this principle, as well as efficacious measures to prevent the corruption, violence, and excesses which harass the electoral body. It was with a lively satisfaction that he learned in this speech that the Government intend to encourage and improve our channels of communication, either by canals or railways, to place us in connection with all parts of the Canadian Confederation from the Atlantic to the Pacific, so as to secure to us the greatest facilities for the carriage of the products, and the encouragement of our trades and industries. Before taking up the last subject which he proposed to submit to their consideration he thought they should congratulate the present Government in having succeeded in re-opening negotiations with the Government of the United States, to obtain a treaty of commercial reciprocity, and should they only secure the provisions of the last treaty it would be an immense advantage which would entitle the Government to the confidence of the country. In conclusion, not being desirous of touching upon all the points of the speech for the reasons already mentioned, he would conclude with a few remarks upon our militia system. Commanding as he had for several years a battalion of militia, the slight experience he had acquired would permit him to speak of the existing law, or rather of the difficulties of