

not going to take the view that a countryman of my own did when his potatoes were destroyed with the ravages of disease. He lamented his losses, but he thanked God that his neighbour's losses were as heavy as his own. So that we are not going to shut of view in connection with this subject the fact that Great Britain and other countries situated as we are at the present moment are also enjoying a season of great prosperity. I might say in passing, that I have myself very strong convictions that the trade of the country has been greatly facilitated from the fact that gentlemen on the other side of the House paid so little attention to their pre-election pledges, and that they allowed wise measures that were instituted by their predecessors to continue in operation and did little to prevent the prosperity of the country under the operation of the National Policy and other measures that were inaugurated by the late government. Then a reference is made to the improvement in ocean transportation. I have no particular fault to find with that, because in the wording of that clause no direct claim is made for the work by the present government. It refers to the improvement in ocean transportation, which assists and facilitates the development of the trade of our country at the present time, and it is followed by the suggestion that a measure with regard to the inspection of products going out of our country will be submitted to parliament during the present session. Then there is another clause that refers to the post offices, and here again the government is in a prophetic mood. The speech assures us that in a very short time the revenues of the post office will show such an ample increase as will make up for any present losses occasioned by the diminished rate of postage. On that subject it may be that the increased prosperity of the country will help the post office, and that these predictions will be fulfilled, but unfortunately we are not in a position to take the assurances of the government, even when they put these assurances in a speech from the Throne, as being something that we can absolutely rely upon, for we remember very well that last year a statement was placed in the mouth of His Excellency to the effect that the exodus of the people of Canada going

to the United States had been entirely stopped, that it had ceased, and there is a reference in the same direction even in the present speech. We knew at that time, and every person knew, that there was no foundation of truth in the statement put in the mouth of His Excellency, and it may possibly be that this assurance with regard to the returns from the post office may also be found to be unworthy of very great credence. We must bear in mind that we have had assurances of the same kind with regard to the earnings of the Intercolonial Railway. My hon. friend, the Secretary of State, when we were discussing questions in connection with that railway last year, speaking from his place across the floor of this House, said that there was to be net receipts on the Intercolonial, for the year that was then almost drawing to a close, greater than all the net receipts on the Intercolonial during all the preceding years of its history. I find that the Minister of Agriculture, in speaking on this subject during the recent campaign in Sherbrooke, said that a very good result had been obtained, that the net receipts were between five and six thousand dollars. I have inquired, and I find that the report of the Minister of Railways has not yet been submitted to the public and we are not quite sure even about five or six thousand dollars, notwithstanding the high promises and assurances that were given to this House last year by my hon. friend the Secretary of State, and notwithstanding this election speech of the Minister of Agriculture during the campaign in Sherbrooke. Gentlemen in the government are referring with a good deal of satisfaction to the increased settlement in the North-west. There is no doubt that there is a very considerable accession in numbers, and whether the quality of the incomers as settlers and citizens of this country is of the first order or not, I am not going to discuss very closely. There are serious doubts upon that point—doubts that are specially entertained by the old settlers in the North-west Territories, who my hon. friend the Minister of Justice has said profited by this immigration in the labour that was brought into the country. Nevertheless I know that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction with the class of immigration brought into that country, and as to the