

selves. I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. LAURIER. I offer my very hearty congratulations to the mover and seconder of the Address on the eloquent manner in which they have discharged the always difficult task they have just performed. They have gallantly struggled to put flesh and blood, nerve and sinew, into the dry bones which the advisers of His Excellency put in his hands yesterday as the programme of the Session, but if the Speech from the Throne remains a skeleton it is no fault of my hon. friends. The hon. mover of the Address has the honor to bear a name popular in this House, and though I differ from him politically very widely, though in my estimation the electors of Compton would have better served their country by electing my friend Mr. Monroe, still I say to the hon. gentleman, and I say it with perfect sincerity, that it is a great pleasure to friends and foes to welcome to this House a young member, the son of an illustrious father, and to find that he is true to the parent stock. But in listening a moment ago to the eloquent strain of the hon. gentleman, and a moment afterwards to the no less eloquent language of the hon. member for Victoria, who both depicted in glowing terms a country famed for its present prosperity, I asked myself whether the hon. gentlemen could have meant Canada; but, as they proceeded, I could not but be certain that the country they had in their minds was indeed Canada, and then I concluded they must have been, both of them, mesmerised by the great mesmerist on the other side, for they spoke not of things real but of things fanciful. They spoke of things not seen by the stern eye of reality, but seen by the fantastic vision put before their gaze by the great wizard. To speak of the prosperity of Canada at present, and especially of the farmers of Canada—well, if all the farmers of Canada were in the position of my hon. friend from Compton, if they had all cash accounts at the bank as he has, I could well understand these hon. gentlemen speaking of the prosperity of Canada in the glowing terms they used. But where is that prosperity to be found? Certainly not in the East; certainly not in Quebec; certainly not in the Maritime Provinces; certainly not in the great Province of Ontario itself. For it cannot be denied, whatever may be said to the contrary on the other side, that the farmers of Canada never were so pinched as they are at present. It cannot be denied that there is at this moment a deep agricultural depression all over the country, and when the agriculturists of any country are not prosperous, that country cannot be considered thriving. The hon. gentlemen referred to the trip taken by His Excellency across the continent, and to the greetings of loyalty which His Excellency met everywhere. No doubt in the West there must be a deeply seated feeling of loyalty, for those people have been treated in a manner which, if they had not been loyal, would have produced the very direst consequences. The North-West settler has not been treated in a manner creditable to Canada. On the contrary, everything has been done by the Government to hamper him. He has been forced for many years to buy in a distant and dear market when he could have bought in a near and cheap market. He has

been saddled for years with a crushing monopoly forced upon him by a wanton abuse of the power of disallowance in the Government, and it was only when the feeling of loyalty was at last giving way, and when rebellion was becoming a possibility, that the Government were induced to yield and remove the monopoly—but only after that monopoly had crushed its enemies. But even after its removal, the condition of the people seems to be no better; for the great company to which the hon. gentleman alluded, the Canadian Pacific Railway, is at this moment discriminating in an unwarranted manner, according to my judgment, against the North-West settler in favor of the American settler. The Canadian Pacific Railway, at this moment, is charging the North-West settler for carrying a bushel of wheat from Winnipeg to Toronto, 27 cents, whereas it is only charging the American settler for the same carriage between Minneapolis and Toronto the sum of 15 cents, so that at this moment the Canadian Pacific Railway is taking from the hard earnings of the Canadian settler 12 cents per bushel more than from the American settler. Under such circumstances it cannot be said that the Canadian settler is a prosperous individual. Here is a grievance, and I call the attention of the Government to it. I claim that it is the duty of the Government to enquire into this matter and to see that this railway company, which has cost so much money to the people of Canada, is made to serve the people of Canada at least as efficiently as it is made to serve the people of the neighboring country. Though I call the attention of the Government to this subject, it is, perhaps, perfectly useless on my part to do so. I do not expect that the Government will answer my demand; I do not expect that they will make any enquiry into this subject, or give any relief to the people of the North-West. I do not expect it, because it is altogether vain at this moment to expect of the Government anything like activity. They are in office, they enjoy the sweets of office, but they seem to have lost all power, all nerve for action. Why, they do not even perform the ordinary duties of administration! Yes, I charge deliberately against the Government that they have not at this moment sufficient nerve to discharge the ordinary duties which pertain to an Administration. For instance, we derive our revenue chiefly from Customs duties, and in one of the chief ports of the Dominion, the port of Toronto, the Collectorship of Customs has been vacant for over two years. Is it the duty, or not, of the Administration to fill up that vacancy? Is not that a simple matter of administration? Yet one year, two years have elapsed, and still the vacancy exists. What can the reason be? Is there no one among the hon. gentlemen who sit on your right, Sir, who would be ready to serve his country as collector for a good round sum every year? Or, is the right hon. gentleman afraid to open a constituency in a Province which for the last ten years has given him its chief support? Or, has my hon. friend the Minister of Customs become so fastidious in his tastes that he cannot find anybody suited to fill the office? Or, is it simply because the Ministers, reclining in their chairs, cannot raise the energy necessary to make this appointment?

An hon. MEMBER. Economy.