

which the hon. gentleman said, His Excellency was giving special attention, does not come, I apprehend, before him as a matter of fact in anyway, save that we being so deeply interested in it His Excellency will be probably informed of the negotiations from time to time, but they undoubtedly will be entered into by Great Britain and the United States. The suspension of work on the Welland and other canals, which we are informed is to take place, is a policy which offers a remarkable contrast to what we were told by the Ministry of the House during last session. One of the strongest reasons why the Government works should be proceeded with, we were told last session was in order to help to give employment and alleviate the general depression in the country; and even if the work in itself was not expedient to be undertaken yet for general reasons affecting the whole people, we were told it should be pushed forward. We were told so with reference to even that most unnecessary work the Georgian Bay Branch Railroad, and when we expostulated with the members of the Government in this House and pointed out the absurdity of building now a road without connections at either end, when we expressed our convictions that it was impossible that it was in the public interest, and expressed our suspicions that there was some other motive actuating the Government, such as the rewarding of a converted partisan, we were told this work and others should be proceeded with, whether it was wanted or not, in order to give employment to labor in the depressed state of the labor market. Now we are congratulated that works of real value and importance are not to be proceeded with, works which are infinitely more needed than the one to which I have referred. Then, the hon. gentleman who seconded the motion congratulates us upon the completion of the Intercolonial Railway, and says he was at one time opposed to it. I understand he and his friends were opposed to it all along and made it one of their objections to union with this country. But the objections to the Intercolonial Railway were not confined to the hon. gentlemen and his friends in Prince Edward Island. A large section of the party now supporting the Government obstructed the late Administration in the building of that road, and threw every obstacle in their power in our way. Now, when, in spite of their opposition, it is completed and in running order, hon. gentlemen opposite are quite willing—I do not say they are not quite right in doing so—to congratulate the country upon the advan-

tages arising from the completion of a great national work which they had all along vehemently opposed. It is pleasant to us to reflect that the time has come when our opponents are willing to congratulate themselves on what we accomplished. I am glad the rails have gone by that route. I join the hon. gentleman who moved the address in feeling a pride that our mails are passing through our own country all the year round. I believe the experiment has been so far eminently successful. The trip has been made in 19 hours to Riviere du Loup, 22 hours to Quebec and 33 to 36 hours to Montreal, and mails have been delivered in Montreal some twelve or fifteen hours earlier than the average time by the former route from Portland. That advantage has not been extended to Ontario, because the special train that brings the mails has stopped at Montreal. Had it been continued we would have had our mails twelve or fifteen hours earlier in Toronto and the West. It must be gratifying to my hon. friend from Montreal, who was chief Commissioner to the Centennial Exposition to find that his services, and those of his brother Commissioners are considered so great as to justify this unusual step of referring to them in the Speech from the Throne. I had not the pleasure of being at the Exposition, but I am quite willing to believe that everything in the power of this honorable gentleman was done by him to make the Exhibition on the part of Canada a success. There is a from the diminution of importations and my hon. friend who seconded the motion, alludes to the absence of any language in the speech concerning the general depression of trade, industries and commerce. It is one of the most unfortunate omissions that could have occurred in a speech from the Throne, delivered at this particular epoch of the history of the country. My hon. friend must live in a very promising and healthy Province, if the stagnation which has affected the continent generally, has not touched Prince Edward Island. He seemed to believe—and I admire the simplicity of his faith—that because His Excellency did not mention this depression in his speech, it does not exist. Credulity could not possibly go further. The people of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would like to be able to come to the same conclusion, but on better premises. The depression of all our industries is only too true. There is hardly a branch of trade, or of manufacture, throughout the country which is not in a state of extreme depression. That, I think, every one knows. So far from there being a termination to it, I