

period is not remote when the Minister of Railways and Canals, having reached an amount of receipts commensurate with the expenditure which he finds it necessary to incur on that road, will be able to grant to the country such favourable terms as will enable us more effectively to open up an increased and continuous interprovincial trade. Whilst this burden of half a million dollars deficit per annum was weighing upon the country, we found it difficult to obtain all those concessions necessary to the development of trade. But now we look forward, under the present management, to realising the hopes long cherished on that subject. There are many industries—the agriculture of the west; our manufactures and mineral resources, opening up to some extent in the east—all of which we trust will reap advantage from the improved terms thus foreshadowed. The next subject to which I desire to direct the attention of this House is the realisation to an encouraging extent of the hopes based upon the passage of the Tariff Bill at the last Session of Parliament. It is cheering to see it recorded in the Speech from the Throne that the development of the varied industries of the country has on the whole been very satisfactory. In the east, we have felt some beneficial effects directly from the operation of this Tariff. We have seen our West India trade renewed. We have found that the predictions regarding the manner in which the prices of commodities would be affected have not answered the expectations of those who have ridiculed the Tariff on that ground. We have seen old industries revived, and new ones starting up. We have heard of the Minister of Finance receiving those assurances, from all sides, which must inspire him with confidence in the policy which the present Administration inaugurated, and are prepared to carry forward. But, although the Tariff was a thoroughly well considered and excellent measure, yet, as any work emanating from the most gifted human brain cannot be perfect at once, it is natural to expect that amendments will be required, and I, for one, shall feel under the necessity, on behalf of my own constituency, of drawing the attention of the Minister of Finance to some amendments which will be most desirable.

MR. RICHEY.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. RICHEY: In response to those ironical cheers, I have to say that we may felicitate ourselves upon possessing a Government willing to receive and anxious to consider those suggestions for improvements which may be found necessary. Yes, Sir, I shall be under the necessity of bringing to the notice of the hon. the Minister of Finance suggestions in the way of modification of the Tariff; and I have no doubt that similar representations will be brought from other parts of the country, and will receive due consideration. Leaving the subject of the Tariff, I may now refer to the proposal for Civil Service Reform. I believe that the Civil Service of Canada compares not unfavourably with that of other countries, but, if we are to adhere to the principle which has been adopted, of permanency in that service, if we are to rescue it from the evils to which it has been exposed through the excitement of party conflict, it is exceedingly desirable that we should have some scheme by which those who are introduced into it as permanent servants will reach it through something like a competitive examination which is found to work so well in another portion of the Empire. If that has been found to have been carried too far in some respects, and those who have tried it have had to recede in some degree from the position originally assumed, I trust that the Government, in preparing their measure, will avail themselves of all the information which has been obtained in the Mother Country, as I have no doubt they will, and that a measure will be submitted such as this House can adopt and readily carry though. Our attention is called to the fact that the law incorporating the banks of the Dominion will expire next year; and the necessity for a full consideration of our banking system and of the subject of the currency, as connected therewith, is suggested to us. All will admit the great desirability of placing the banking institutions of the country upon a firm and sound basis, and, as the circulation of the currency of the country is somewhat like the circulation of the blood in the human system—life depending upon its activity,—it is necessary that we should preserve it in healthful condition. I shall say nothing more in connection with this at the