

country of \$800,000. This transaction was not effected in the best interests of the country. I did not purpose saying very much in this relation, but I do hope that the Government will arrest the expenditure proceeding from day to day, but which would not have been permitted had this House had the power to prevent it. Of such power this House has been deprived and how that little clause was inserted, by which this House was shorn of such a prerogative, I never could understand, nor could I ever meet any one who did. It did appear, however, in the measure—and the Government seemed to know it—that contracts were to be submitted to the House of Commons alone, but in reading over the debates of this House, I find that every hon. gentleman who spoke stated that contracts were to be submitted to Parliament. Of course the provision was inserted by the Government, but I do not think it would have passed very easily in this House had it been so understood. The discussion on that important measure, it is to be remarked, took place at 10 o'clock on Saturday night, and the debate was adjourned until the following Tuesday. We had not time to consider it properly, and in reality very little or nothing was said about it.

Like my leader, I feel that anything that I can do to assist the Government in the passage of good measures, I ought to make it my duty to do. A close examination of the legislation of the day is necessary. I hope that in this relation we will perform our part; at all events, I will try to do mine, and then I shall feel that my duty will have been faithfully fulfilled.

Hon. Mr. CARROL—I do not rise to congratulate the Government on the paucity of subjects which characterizes their Speech, for I believe that subjects exist, but they have been ignored. I refer particularly to the British Columbian question and the great and growing difficulties now existing in the relations between the Dominion and that Province. I believe that the misunderstandings that have arisen have been increasing in gravity, and that they have perhaps been intensified by the absence of any allusion to them in the Speech. I feel convinced that these relations are beginning to assume a political complexion of such importance as the Government will find before this session draws to a close may threaten the peace of the Confederation. I view with some alarm the flippant man-

ner in which a subject of this importance is alluded to.

Hon. Mr. SKEAD—My honourable friend on this side of the House says he warned the Government last year of the difficulties they were drifting into in connection with the Georgian Bay Branch Railway expenditure. It is very strange that that hon. gentleman, and others from his neighbourhood, can see only through spectacles that look south of this district. He tells us there is no necessity for the Georgian Bay Branch Railway being built, as there are six existing railways stretching out in that direction from one point. I think the question is a plain one; that this country is deeply interested in the opening up of the section through which the road runs. The members from the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, and from Eastern Ontario, will see that the correct policy for the country is to have a direct route across the continent, without diverging through the southern portion of Ontario. The Government have gone on in good faith building that road, and although I do not wish to see them have a long lease of power, I want to see them in power long enough to complete the task. I am sorry to see the hon. gentleman so much wrapped up in the western part of the Province, and I think there are members in this House disinterested enough to oppose anything which would encourage this sectional feeling. I hope that the Government will go on in a straight course, and that they will see this road completed. I do not sustain them in all their actions, but I hope when there is a change of Administration, that there will not be a majority in it who think as my hon. friend on my left thinks.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACK—With reference to the depression of trade, we have proof that we have not only a deficit, but that we are likely to come to direct taxation. With regard to the Maritime Provinces, I must say that despite the taxes imposed upon this branch of industry, our fisheries have proved equal to the average. I must take exception to the second clause of the Address, owing to the neglect shown in connection with the settlement of claims for the use by the Americans of our fisheries under the provisions of the Washington Treaty. While the late Government was in power, every step was taken to bring the matter to arbitration, and nothing was left undone to hasten the conclusion of negotiations. We then believed that