

ment. We are told that correspondence, reports, and other papers regarding the construction of the Pacific Railway will be laid before us. We will, of course, be exceedingly happy to receive all this information, and to give it every consideration. No indication, however, is given in the speech, (and I must say it is a serious omission), as to the course to be taken by the Government either administratively or by means of additional legislation on this important subject. No intimation is given of any kind, but I presume it will be forthcoming when we get the ministerial explanations, which we may hope for at an early day, in relation to the reconstruction of the Government when it was thought necessary to add to its strength by the selection of my hon. friends the Minister of Justice and the President of the Council. When we receive this explanation, then, most likely, we will be informed in what manner the divergence between my hon. friends the Premier and the Minister of Justice on this important subject has been settled. I presume that they will give us some information as to what the future course of the Government will be. The last clause of the speech, which refers to Manitoba, shows that the hon. gentlemen opposite are falling into our mistake about better terms. There was a great deal of talk about the unconstitutionality, etc., of some of our legislation in that direction. But still, such is life; my hon. friend has fallen into our mistakes. Experience has shown him we were not so far wrong in our previous breaches of the constitution and assaults on the revenue as he then alleged we were. I think it is Benedict who says, "when I declared I would die a bachelor I did not think I would ever be married." The same with my hon. friends: they did not think when they were in opposition they would ever be ministers. I hope the longer their experience extends, and the more they feel the cares and responsibilities of government, the more sympathy they will have with their predecessors; and when the day will come when they return to this side of the House—

Mr. BLAKE—That will be the millenium.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—That

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

will be the millenium. I do not think he enjoys a millenium at the present time. I think that there are some thorns, some tares, whether sown by their own friends or by enemies I know not, and I think it is wrong for us to enquire; but my hon. friends will admit it is not a bed of roses. It is not proposed to move any amendment to this Address. Unless any hon. gentleman desires to move an amendment, perhaps it will not be necessary to move it paragraph by paragraph, and it can be carried *en bloc*.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I am sure the Government have no reason to complain of the line of criticism or any of the criticisms of the hon. gentleman. He has indicated that in all probability beneath the smooth surface of the speech delivered by His Excellency, there is some terrible torpedo that will damage the country. The hon. gentleman has made allusion to the speech delivered by His Excellency in London. I can only say, as a Canadian then in England, his knowledge of the country, and the exertion he made to bring that knowledge prominently before other portions of the world, were of great service to Canada, and I have no doubt that the country at large appreciates the efforts of His Excellency in the speeches referred to, both in England and during his tour in Canada the previous year. As to the hon. gentleman's expression, that he hoped His Excellency's efforts in England would counteract the efforts of the Agent-General, I think it would be better not to have made that remark. Mr. Jenkins was a most zealous and devoted friend of Canada; and whatever fault may have been found by the hon. gentleman opposite, by newspapers in the interests of the Opposition, and by other public bodies and individuals, there can be no doubt whatever that he was extremely anxious and zealous in endeavouring to promote the interests of Canada, and I feel bound to bear testimony to the character of his efforts. The Government will not at present enter into explanations with regard to the course that they have pursued in connection with immigration matters, as the subject will come up at the proper time.