

than we want as to economy in regard to the Pacific Railway. Perhaps there is some mistake in the Speech from the Throne in reference to this subject—either the Speech was prepared before the hon. Senator was sworn in, or he misunderstands it and reads it in the opposite direction from that in which the hon. member for Halifax reads it. It seems, however, somewhat singular that a gentleman so free from party political bias could place himself in this false position in regard to expenditure upon the Pacific Railway. I will not refer to the matter any further. Other matters will develop themselves in the course of the Session, and matters will come up to bring this question fully before the House. We shall be ready to take our share of the public business, and criticise fairly and impartially the measures of the Government as they are presented, while maintaining our own distinctive views.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I must congratulate not only the House generally but the Opposition in particular, on the cheerful, nay, facetious spirit in which the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has opened the discussions of the Session. He is resolved to be merry under all circumstances, although according to the hon. gentleman the country is ruined, although had it not been for an interposition of special Providence, at which he is inclined to sneer, the Dominion would have been utterly ruined, still the depression has not affected his spirits. He has resolved, like a character in one of the novels to which he has alluded, to be merry under all circumstances. It turns out that the hon. gentleman has been reading novels. I did not at first understand why he was so very hilarious, I thought surely he must have given up his Scottish sternness of character and adopted that of the light-hearted hero of the story already so aptly cited. The hon. gentleman complained of the paucity of subjects in the Speech from the Throne, but explained that he would not have complained except for the fact that, when we were in Opposition, we insisted that every measure should be mentioned in the Speech. But that was a Reform Administration and we wanted to see if they had found anything to reform. We, being old Conservatives, cannot be expected to come down with an avalanche

of reforms as the hon. gentleman did, and with which he deluged the country for five years; but it will be found before the Session closes that the measures alluded to in the Speech will fully occupy the time of hon. members, and that, what with the discussions on the banking system, the currency in connection with that system, Civil Service reform, the Government Railway policy, and the Tariff amendments, the usual time of the Session will be exhausted. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said there is not much to object to in the Speech, except that some of the statements are untrue. There are differences of opinion on that point. We have endeavoured, as our custom is, to lay before Parliament, through the Address, some idea of the exact state of the country, and we believe—indeed we know, and the country knows that, instead of the state of depression in which the hon. gentleman left the country, there has already commenced within the short period of one year, a real improvement, a real development, and I believe that under that Providence at which the hon. gentleman rather sneers, this improvement will continue from year to year so long as the present policy is developed, until the country is restored to the state of prosperity which it occupied before 1873. The hon. gentleman has spoken about the indecency of some remarks by my hon. friend who moved this Address.

MR. MACKENZIE: Not the indecency of the remarks, but the indecency of giving that gentleman documents which are not furnished to myself or to other members.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: The hon. gentleman knows perfectly well, if he looks at the precedents in England, that the mover and seconder of the Address always are afforded the means, and it is only just to have it, to justify the various sentiments and propositions contained in the Speech from the Throne. If the hon. gentleman will read any one of the speeches of the mover and seconder in England, he will find both these gentlemen are instructed by the Government of the day so as to be able to speak with some reason as to the various subjects contained in the Address. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Richey) merely made these statements in corroboration, and in