

pathize with that most heartily. I long to see the day when any legislative enactment can find a place on our statute book, which will have the effect of diminishing the intemperance which unhappily prevails in our land, but I hope that whatever measure is brought forward by the Government will be of a practical character, one not suitable only to a few people on the platform, but one which can be carried into effect throughout the country.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS.—I have listened very attentively to the speech made by the hon. member from Prince Edward Island, and I feel if he had been consulted in the framing of one paragraph of this Address, it would not have appeared in the form in which it does. I would call attention to it:—

“We accept with thankfulness Your Excellency's congratulations on the abundant harvest reaped in all quarters of the Dominion; and we rejoice with Your Excellency, that under this and other influences there has been some improvement in the Revenue returns, thus indicating, we also trust, that the commercial depression that has so long afflicted Canada, in common with other countries, is passing away.”

Now, the hon. gentleman tells us—and which, I believe, is a fact—in consequence of the abundant harvest which has been reaped, those engaged in commerce have imported more than they otherwise would—in fact, have been speculating on the returns of this harvest, but the Government have come to the conclusion because the revenue has increased the depression is passing away. If ministers would only give us their experience, gained during the recess while attending the political pic-nics, and coming in contact with thousands of people, I feel satisfied a conclusion somewhat different from what they put here must be arrived at. The Secretary of State's position is this, as far as the Government were concerned, they were not able to do anything to prevent the depression, and cannot do anything to relieve it now. That statement will go to the country with all the importance which it is clothed with, coming from a member of the Government. I, as a member of this House, cannot coincide with this view. I demur to it. My conviction is that a great deal of this depression in manufacturing circles is due to the illegitimate competition from surplus American stock coming here. Will any one

*Hon. Mr. Haythorne.*

tell me if our tariff had been so arranged that we had collected higher duties from those stocks, they would have come in such quantities? No one that knows anything of the business of this country would attempt to hazard a statement of that kind, and yet that has been, and is the state of things our manufacturers have to contend against. What I regret in this Speech is, that notwithstanding the depression which prevails in the manufacturing and lumbering interest, not a word of sympathy is expressed for those who have invested their all in those trades. A word of sympathy would not have cost much, but it is not given. I am rather inclined to think, that if the Government have come to the conclusion not to afford increased protection to the industries of the Dominion during the present Session, the country certainly will require others besides those who are now in power to deal with this question. There is one paragraph to which I would particularly refer—that is, the opening up of the North-West. No one has felt more interested in the opening up of that country than I have, I have been there and looked upon those fertile lands which, undeveloped as they are, are valueless, but developed are mines of wealth. This year the people of Manitoba have a surplus of about half a million of bushels of grain. What are they to do with it? They cannot get it out to market. As the hon. Senator from Manitoba says, wheat can be obtained there for fifty cents per bushel. A railway might have been built into that country from the head waters of Lake Superior during the time the present Government has been in power, yet we find that but a feeble effort has been put forth to build it in patches. But they tell us in a short time connection will be made with the American lines, and the surplus wheat can then be got to market. If so, who is to do the carrying trade? So far as the Red River is concerned, we have not a boat on it. The Americans would not let us run a vessel past the boundary line. That trade will go to St. Paul, and, as has been remarked here to-day, when trade takes a certain course, it is difficult to change it. Colonization roads are spoken of. I suppose companies will be incorporated to build them, and aided by grants of the public lands. The Pacific Railway does