

North-West, and the Mounted Police Force, show that the Government has closely studied the requirements of the country during the recess, and sought for the means of meeting them, and that they intend to give us plenty to do during the present Session, a boon for which those who are naturally disposed to find the time hang heavily will owe them special thanks. It appears to me a happy coincidence that the bank charters of the Dominion are just about to expire at a moment when public opinion in the country is loudly calling for the enactment of more stringent laws particularly as regards inspection, in order to afford better security to the public and to the shareholders of the banks themselves, and when there is quite a strong feeling in favour of restricting the sphere of operation of the banks by further extending the circulation of Dominion notes. This is a question of vital importance to the credit and prosperity of this country, and demands our utmost attention, scrutiny and prudence. The Insolvency Law is also a most important question, with which we dealt at too late a period last Session. It is to be hoped that we may not separate this year without having amended it in such a way as to improve many of its faulty provisions; otherwise I should for my part feel bound to vote for a pure and simple repeal, as I did last Session; and I think the opinion of the House is still the same on this subject. Mr. Speaker, the last paragraph of the Speech from the Throne shows conclusively that the appellation "National" applied to the policy of the Government which the suffrages of the people placed in power by so splendid a majority on the 17th September, 1878, is well deserved. In fact, as a Canadian, one feels raised up by its far-seeing and public-spirited policy. In reading this paragraph, one sees the dawn of a new era for Canada, and that henceforth we shall count for something in the eyes of other nations. This will only increase the prestige of the Mother Country, to which we owe these progressive developments of our national existence—developments happily accomplished and which demonstrate both the excellence of the institutions with which she has endowed us and our own vitality. The appointment of a permanent representative of Canada in London will be an epoch in

our history. Honour to the statesmen capable of accomplishing such great things without social convulsion or political commotion, who have found other means of making Canada great without diminishing the greatness of the vast and glorious Empire of which we form a part. With great pleasure, then, Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

MR. MACKENZIE: Before the Address passes, I desire to offer a few remarks to the House—not that the matter of the Speech affords much ground for debate. Altogether, the Speech contains the promise of the amendments of five measures, three of which have been consolidated or amended already by gentlemen opposite, a renewal of the Banking Law, and, as we learned from the speech of the mover, the abolition of the Insolvency Law. This is the entire programme provided for the Session. The hon. gentleman opposite was accustomed in former years to taunt the late Administration with the paucity of the bill of fare presented, although we never pretended to present a catalogue of our measures in the Speech from the Throne. But no such meagre bill of fare as this was ever presented to a Canadian Parliament. An hon. friend beside me remarks that this is Lent, and no doubt we have here a Lenten bill of fare. I would not complain of it were it from any other gentlemen in office; but, as the present gentlemen insisted in former years that the Queen's Speech should contain a complete programme of the work of the Session, we must assume that this is all the work they have prepared for us. Before proceeding to criticise, as I shall, some of the statements made, I desire to call the attention of the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government, and the Minister of Railways, to the gross indecency of putting special statements and returns, up to within a few days, into the hands of a member of the House, of which all other members have been deprived. We all had a right to those special returns; any paper used by the Government in debate must be produced to the House. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Richey) after telling us he was, to use his own words, "favoured with special information," proceeded to deal with the figures arranged