

the Government, instead of taking what might be regarded as statesmanlike steps towards improving the condition of things on that railway, has been dismissing old and trusted employes at the very worst season of the year, in midwinter, when it is almost impossible to get employment elsewhere. We do not find in the Speech any reference to the license law. That was a matter that occupied our attention for two or three years. It has now been happily disposed of. I am surprised that the Government do not congratulate the country upon the fact that this burning question has been completely extinguished by the last decision of the Privy Council. Probably if the leader of this House were still Minister of Justice, he would have seen that a paragraph was put in the Speech with reference to that matter. There are other decisions of the Privy Council that we do not hear anything about either.

There is just one remark I should like to make as to something that dropped from the hon. leader of the Government in reply to what was said by the leader of the Opposition. The leader of the Government said that there was no want at all in this country of independent expression of opinion, and he referred to the present agitation in the Province of Quebec. The leader of the Opposition was perfectly right in expressing his regret at the absence in this country of an independent political sentiment, and I think the leader of the Government need not have gone back very far to recall cases where that independent feeling was effectually crushed out. The hon. gentleman cannot help remembering how it was that the opposition to the last vote of \$30,000,000 to the Canadian Pacific Railway was disposed of—how the independent opinion opposed to that grant was got rid of. The hon. gentleman must remember also that last session a measure was introduced into Parliament which was opposed, I believe, by three-quarters of the Conservative members of the House of Commons; and that independent opinion was got rid of in some way or other; and, look at the course now taken by the Government and their friends—

HON. MR. CARVELL—I rise to a point of order. I do not think my hon.

friend is justified in standing up here and abusing so large a majority of the other branch of parliament.

HON. MR. POWER—I am not abusing them; I am only pointing out how very accessible to reason the majority of them were.

HON. MR. CARVELL—Traducing them.

HON. MR. POWER—No; I am not traducing them. If my hon. friend can induce some of his friends to reveal the secrets of "No. 8," hon. gentlemen will see whether I am traducing them or not. I think the circumstances which accompany one great expression of independent opinion are enough to show how true the words of the leader of the Opposition were. We have had recently an independent expression of opinion in the Province of Quebec; and how has it been met? Has it been met in a reasonable way? Was not this expression of opinion, which may have been rather extreme, but was kept within constitutional bounds, met at the very outset by the organ of the Government in Toronto with the threat to do away with the constitutional rights and privileges of the people of Quebec, guaranteed by the treaty of 1763? That fact just shows how little the people who govern this country can understand or appreciate independent expression of opinion. I hope that as we grow older we shall grow wiser and grow more like England. I think it is very much in the interests of this country that we should have much more frequent and general expressions of independent political opinion; and I only hope that before we get through this session we shall not have striking evidence of the large price that the country shall be called upon to pay in order to get rid of the recent and present expression of opinion in the Province of Quebec.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I do not rise to prolong this debate, and probably I should not have risen at all but for some few remarks of my hon. friend on my right. Now, as regards reciprocity, my hon. friend would lead the House to believe that the Government is opposed to trade with the United States. He must re-