

like this: "Notwithstanding the commercial depression that has occurred in other nations, it is satisfactory to know that the prosperity of the Dominion has not been seriously affected." He thought those were the words that should have been put into the mouth of His Excellency. He had had the pleasure of hearing the Finance Minister speak, and he heard him state what seemed most extraordinary. He said that if the Pacific Railway was built every man would have to work one month each year to pay the interest on the money. Now if that were true there was no doubt but that the gentlemen from British Columbia must wait. But he hoped the time was far distant when the people would forego the opportunity of constructing that railway on their own land and at the earliest possible moment. He had to say to the Government that if they would bring down any reasonable scheme for the construction of the road he would give them every possible assistance in his power.

The Hon. Mr. WILMOT said there was one fact alluded to in the Speech, and that was to the effect that the income would not meet the expenses. That was certainly vague. Either there must have been some falling off in trade or there must have been some extraordinary expenditure to call for that particular statement in the Speech. They knew what had occurred in the neighbouring Republic. Any such calamity in that country this Dominion must feel injuriously on her trade. He thought the paragraph was right, but the general state of trade was not at all bad, though there were sufficient grounds to make allusion to it. With regard to the Pacific Railway, it was a matter of the most intense interest to British Columbia, and for the interests of the Dominion that within a reasonable time that road should go on; but hon. gentlemen knew, and it had been always his opinion, that it was something almost monstrous that they should commence the road in two years and finish it in ten. It was a road of almost 2,700 miles in length, and the expense of it they could not comprehend. He was glad when he heard that the contract had been broken through, and he thought the expression of the people throughout the country went to show that they were not sorry. He hoped they would never give encouragement to the breaking of public faith. What British Columbia asked in the first instance he was always willing to grant. With regard to reciprocity, he wished to say a word or two as a warning to his honourable friends,

They knew very well that the last treaty was abrogated by the United States, because it was their idea that it would force this country into annexation. What was the history of what occurred since? It had the effect of throwing this country on her own resources. Before that time a great deal of the lumber trade with the Western Isles and South America passed through the United States, and the profits which then went to New York and Boston came into the pockets of the people of Canada. Boston was the ready market in which to sell fish, and, in consequence of a great fish trade being done with South America and the West Indies, the profits that before went to Boston came into the pockets of our own people after the abrogation of that treaty, because the people got vessels of their own for the purpose of carrying on the trade direct with those countries.

Hon. Mr. MILLER observed that the hon. gentleman's remarks did not at all apply to Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT continued to say that he was speaking of his own Province, and he was not aware, until now that his observations would not apply to Nova Scotia also. He could only say that a direct trade was opened up between the West Indies, South America and Canada. He must have been misinformed with regard to Nova Scotia, and that reminded him that he could not but express regret at a vacancy in one seat on the other side, occasioned by the death of an hon. gentleman who was largely engaged in the trade, and it was from him he gained his information. In reference to this new reciprocity treaty he trusted that particular caution would be observed, for Americans were particularly sharp in taking advantage in the smallest matter. In his part of the country they produced a large quantity of hay, and the Americans imposed a duty of 20 per cent. on some hay he had exported because they said it was a manufactured article. There was no more reason to call hay a manufactured article than to call wheat that was thrashed from the straw a manufactured article, but he hoped the Government in making the new treaty would keep their eye particularly sharp upon hay. (Laughter.) He had the honor of supporting measures brought in by the late Government, and he had the honor to say that he always treated measures on their merits. With regard to financial measures, there had been an advance of over twenty-eight millions of dollars in circulation besides twelve millions in the Dominion banks. He be-