Continued from second page.

proposed railway. Hon members opposite appear not to recognize the fact that it is now proposed to depart from some of the main terms of the Act of last year. Idstead of raising money on the credit of the colony as proposed by that Act so much has the character of the country been raised by our last years Legislative proceeding, that we now find ourselves in a position to accept either of two alternative propositions from representatives of foreign capital, whereby the responsibilities of the colony will be indefinably minimised. Hon members opposite need entertain no fears that the will be any undue haste on the part of the Government, in closing with any of the contracting parties. The railway propositions will be printed and submitted for the consideration of the House, and the representatives of the people will have an opportunity of declaring the sentiments and opinions upon them He (hon A Shea) speaking for himself as an independent member of this House would say that he was unwilling that a question of such vast importance to this country as the inauguration of a railroad system, ought not to be carried except after the freest and fullest discussion. and by a free vote of this House. It is greatly to the credit of the Government that they have made the railroad an open question, a though empowered by the Act of last session to commence the work of construction without further reference to legislative sanction. They have wisely conceived that no haste or ill considered action should obtain in a matter so largely bound up with the future prospects of this colony. The hon member for Harbor Main has characterised the Governor's Speech as bald and vapid. He very gravely differed from the hon member on that point. It was, on the contrary, a most important Speech. It refers to the subject involving the expenditure of millions of dollars in this country. The one question, the railway question, dwarfs all other subjects into insignificance. It is the only question of paramount significance that has been presented to the country since the establishment of representative institutions among us He trusted that hon. members would eschew all party bias in dealing with this important matter, and accord to it that consideration which, on every account it claims. He (hon A Shea) has been assigned an office in this House. to which he lays no claim and to which he has no pretention. Statements have also been imputed to him to which he never gave utterance on the floor of the House. He has been credited by the hon member, Mr Little. with the statement that the fifteen per cent. of last year, was only a temporary arrangement to meet the exigencies of the time. That was totally incorrect. He never made such a declaration. It was completely out of harmony with the views and intentions of the Government at the time, and the event had proven that their views were correct, and their intentions well directed. He held the speech of the Receiver General in his hand, read in this House in the session of 1879, in which the true position of the question at issue is defined, (here the hon member read copious extracts from the Budget Speech of 1879). From what he had now read to the House, hon members would be convinced that the imposition of the fifteen per cent. was never contemplated as a temporary arrangement, but was intended to be continued to meet the growing and constantly increasing demands of the public services of the colony. Before the recess he was making a few observations relative to the imposition of the fifteen per cent. duty. The hon and learned member Mr Little candidly admitted that he was in error when he affirmed that there were petitions presented to the House against it, when it was first proposed to be imposed.

Mr. Little.—I said that it was stated by the Government at the time, that it was only to be a temporary measure.

Hon. Mr. Shea was sorry that the hon and learned member should have receded from the very graceful admission which he had previously made. He must see that the statements coming from the hon. Receiver General deliberately written and spoken in the house could not possibly have created any false impressions upon the minds of hon. members. He will therefore see that he must have been in error in the matter. He consequently felt satisfied that the hon. and learned member adopted his present course of argument in order to be put in possession of the real facts of the case. It was confidently stated at the time by hon members opposite that owing to the increased value of imported articles, the imposition of the addional fifteen per cent. ought to be dispensed with. The hon and learned member, Mr. Little, estimated the revenue for that year, taking into account increased virtues abroad at $1,077,215. The hon member, Mr. Scott put it down at $1,023,215. The hon member Mr. Tessier, at not less than $1,060,000, and the hon member Mr O'Mara at $1,077,863. And this conclusion was arrived at from their assumed knowledge of the comparative imports of previous years, and the increased price of dutiable goods imported. If their position had been taken as a basis of calculation what would have been the position of the colony financially? Instead of being $70,000 short at the end of the year they would have been over $200,000 short. The effect of such a condition of things would be that the tariff would have to be taken in hand and fundamental alterations would have to be made in it. That would not certainly be certainly be desirable, but on the contrary must operate detrimentally to the interests of the colony. The Opposition of to-day may be the Government of to-morrow, and such a financial position would certainly be most embarassing. If hon members were to deal with this matter on its mere merits instead of indulging in random and untruthful charges, they would arrive at far better results. If they can show that the Government have been guilty of mal-practices he would immediately join them in condemning them. He considered that the course taken by the Government at the time was a wise one, and the result has proved it to be so. In a country like this where everything is to be provided for out of the revenue, they should be very careful indeed in indulging in any tinkering with an approved tariff. The deficit in the revenue of the past year could not have been anticipated, and is due to causes over which the Government have no control. It is greatly to be deprecated that such things should be described as results of the conduct of the Government We are told of depletion of the revenue. and asked by hon members why the Government does not remedy that evil, when they know that such a state of affairs arises from circumstances beyond the control of any Government. It is beyond doubt that the unfavorable result of the fishery the past summer was mainly occasioned by the competition of Norway in the fish markets abroad. With these facts then before us, is it fair that hon members like Mr Little and others in his position should indulge in remarks such as we have just heard, and attempt to lay to the charge of the Government the failures of the fishery. The Government is as much accountable for a short fishery as it is for the operation of the winds and tides, these matters are beyond the reach of any Government, for how can it control what is going on in Norway? For as the cure of fish depends altogether upon the weather and the care taken of it during those seasons in which it cured, it would be a monstrous folly and absurdity for this or any other Gouernment to interfere in the matterc It must be left to the peple themselves and the shippers ought by every means in their power induce the catchers and curers to turn their past eoperience to the pesn account Last year there was a great quantity of fish spoiled on Labrador and elsewhere in the colony, and it is nonsence to ascribe the unmarketable character of that fish to any want of care on the part of the Government. Hon members then should confine themselves in their statements concerning the staple industry of the country to sound and maintainable positions, or those who perure their remarks will ascribe to their conduct some other intention than that of merely remedying the evil of which they complain. As result of our failing fisheries it cannot be denied that the country was never in a more critical condition than it is at present. Our fishermen did not obtain enough last year to supply themselves with bare necessaries for the winter. The shippers of fish in many instances did not realise the price of the first cost And the shippers obtained anything like a fair profit the result would have been different, and would have been felt during the coming year; but as it is, the condition of trade from bad markets is sufficient to awake serious alarm among our people if the Government does not apply some corrective to the evil consequences of our decreasing trade. He (Mr S) could not see that the adoption or the suggestion of the hon member Mr Ken, as to bounties, would afford any remedy. He agreed with the hon. member as to the object, but he doubted the practicability of such a course. though the hon member is correct in his promisas the conclusions which he draws are certainly most fallacions. We are not placed in the same condition as the French and Americans. We are a colony, and a struggling one, and the French Imperial Government is enabled to give bounties to their fishermen which are very different to those under which we find ourselves. Whatever in the form of bounties we may extend to the catchers and curers of fish would be merely taken out of one pocket to place in another. Besides the principle of bounties should only be resorted to in a very extreme and exceptional circumstances. If the Fishery Award could be wisely utilized for this purpose he [Mr. S.] would join the hon. member in this project to-morrow, but he failed to see how any amount paid in the manner suggested would tend towards the correction of the evil complained of. If the hon. member will look at the real cause more strictly that produces the effect, he will see the falacy of his conclusions. We will agree that the time is one that justifies feelings of great concern for the future of the colony, but the remedy does not lie in the direction pointed out by the hon member. If the hon. member will point out any means by which the consequences referred to can be met, he (Mr S) would heartily and readily fall in with his views; but the suggestions made are only another illustration of the hacknied popular impression of the scope and powers of Government, and would if carried into effect, be productive of much mischief. He did not see what advantage was to be derived from any improvement or increase in the means of catching fish. We are able to catch sufficient fish at present, and any further increase would and must result in a decrease in the price. We must devise some means of supplying the

Continued on second page.

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100 Barrels Choice F M PORK,
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By order of the Board,
B. BROWN,
Manager

Nov.

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I most respectfully take leave to call the attention of the Public generally to the fact, that certain Houses in New York are sending to many parts of the globe SPURIOUS IMITATIONS of my Pills and Ointment. These frauds bears on their labels some address in New York.

I do not allow my medicines to be sold in any part of the United States, I have no Agents there. My Medicines are only made by me, at 533 Oxford Street London.

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Signed THOS HOLLOWAY.
533 Oxford Street, London,

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ALL PERSONS having Claims against Board of Works are redueated to hand in their Accounts (duly certified) not later than MONDAY 20th inst.

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JOHN STUART.
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