

the United States troops were far from victorious there latterly, though the noble Savage, to whom reference has been made, was obliged in the end to retire to our side of the line. If there had been no Government in the North-West, our territory might have been made a base of operations against the United States. Was that a sort of thing to be permitted in a civilized country? I think not. I think it was the duty of this Administration to establish a fixed Government in the North-West, and I cannot blame them for any expenditure that was necessary in that behalf. With regard to the possibility of operating by local enactments upon the commercial depression, I would just recall to the memory of hon. gentlemen in this House, the dictum of a high authority in the United States, which I have quoted on a former occasion, and am now obliged to give from memory. Mr. Wells, in one of those addresses which, in his official capacity he used to send to Congress every year, on one occasion congratulated Congress upon the universal prosperity which prevailed throughout the length and breadth of that vast country. He said, I think, throughout its vast extent, not a single soul need lack employment, food and clothing, but everyone had employment at profitable wages, but he said that prosperity was due to the great capabilities of the country and the energies of its people and not to legislation. I think that the opinion of a gentleman of his experience on such an occasion as that—he would hardly hazard an expression which he would not be prepared to defend, or his friends for him—is worthy of respect, yet we are told here that all we require to heal our depression is legislation. In the Province I come from, the people were blessed last year with an average harvest. The prospects at one time were so good that I think our merchants perhaps imported more largely than they would have done under other circumstances, in the expectation not only of a large harvest being reaped, but of markets being equally good. Now, observe the failure which occurred. The harvest is good but the markets are bad. How can the Government help that? Our products sold at prices which were so unremunerative that the farmers found themselves in the fall with a comparatively small sum to ex-

*Hon Mr. Haythorne.*

pend in the stores, and the result was a large amount of goods remained on hand which will probably ultimately be disposed of without profit. Could any Government obviate that? I think not. Oats in Prince Edward Island only realized one cent per pound, and potatoes only 20 to 25 cents per bushel. The very finest of pork which could be raised could hardly be sold, even at six cents per pound. Now that leaves a very small margin for the farmer to go to a store and supply his wants. I should rather seek to find a remedy for this depression in the enlargement of our markets, and economy in sending our goods there. Produce should be forwarded to the best markets at the cheapest rates. We know a great deal has been effected by sending produce from Canada to England, and Europe, and a great deal more can be done in the same direction. I am confident in our own Province much can be yet effected in that way, and I think it is the duty of those who can do anything in this direction to do it. One hon. gentleman speaks of a retaliatory policy. Well, really, I cannot sympathise with that. I think a retaliatory policy is one which is the most difficult to defend of any I have heard advocated. It seems to me a most unstatesmanlike proceeding to say, simply because a country refuses to receive your goods on your terms, therefore you debar yourself and fellow-countrymen from buying articles they want at the cheapest rate. I would say, certainly, that a retaliatory policy would not get rid of this prevailing depression. We should rather encourage our population to enter upon industries for which our country is admirably suited by nature and position. A country like Canada, with such a wide area of fertile land should employ a large number of its population in agriculture and home industries. Have we not intelligence sufficient to develop new industries? Are there not new systems at work in Europe of which we have not yet availed ourselves? I only need to refer to the sugar industries in Europe, and the prosperity which has attended countries which have developed them. All these things have more to do with the prosperity of a country than the causes assigned by some gentlemen here this evening. There is a clause in the Speech which refers to the liquor traffic. I sym-