

sible anxiety and expectation, the course which the Government have to propose when their policy is brought down; and I trust that within a very few days, if not to-day, we shall have laid before us the tenders which have been received for the construction, and which, of course, cannot be given out to contract without the sanction of this House, according to law. I would like, also, that the hon. gentleman would tell us why it is necessary to pass a Census Act two years in advance? Under a previous Ministry and a very diligent Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Dunkin, it was thought quite sufficient to pass the Act a year previous. Is it possible that hon. gentlemen opposite mean, by passing the Act two years in advance, to commence operations at once, and have a staff of employes engaged for two years in preparing for what ought to be done in a few months? I cannot imagine that this is the case, and I presume, it is by mistake intended to pass an Act and to commence operations a year earlier than usual. As to obtaining vital statistics in connection with this measure, that is a subject so great in its proportions, and one which has occupied the attention of the House so much on previous occasions, that I shall not venture to discuss it now, except by saying that, if the Finance Minister imagines that in a time of stringent accounts, when money is scarce, and the revenue not coming up to our expectations, he is to impose a vast system of collection of statistics upon the country, it must be at a very heavy expense indeed. We know that the Province of Ontario has already a very complete system for collecting criminal statistics. It may be perfected to a greater extent perhaps, but such as it is, it has been in operation for some time, and I am not aware that it has failed to give satisfaction. It is a measure prepared by the late Minister of Justice, Mr. Blake. With regard to the departmental arrangements promised, I shall not enter into any discussion further than to express a different opinion to the hon. gentlemen who moved the Address as to the Department to be divided. That I shall discuss at length when the measure is fairly before us. I shall say nothing about it now. As to emigration and the hon. gentleman's re-

MR. MACKENZIE.

marks upon it, I entirely agree with him, and I am glad to ascertain that he has been put up by the present Administration to express himself as he has done. It has always been our view that immigration to this country should be promoted as much as possible, but for the last three years, when there was a surplus of clerical and artizan labour and the lower classes of labour in the cities and towns, the late Government felt they would not be justified in promoting that particular kind of immigration to Canada; and in 1875, Mr. Jenkins, then acting as Agent-General in London, was so instructed, and circulars were issued at that time to the agents in Europe. We were, nevertheless, accused by hon. gentlemen opposite of having brought people into the country at a time when many of our own people were out of employment. We endeavoured to direct the attention of our immigration agents in Europe to the introduction of the agricultural class, those who might fairly be expected to go on the land and till it, and produce something which would sustain themselves and increase the trade of the country. Any measures which have for their immediate object the immigration of that class into the country will, as a matter of course, receive our cordial support. The hon. gentleman made a very true remark indeed in discussing this subject; he referred to the share that immigration had in creating prosperity, and he remarked besides that it was unreasonable to expect any Government to create prosperity in the country. Well, Sir, the contrary view is the very thing that hon. gentlemen opposite and their friends have been circulating as their opinions for the last two years. They declared that the late Government could have created prosperity by legislation, but I am glad to find that they now find they cannot procure prosperity by legislation. The question of life assurance is one which can only be discussed in a very careful manner. In connection with the immediate object, that is, to obtain money for the Government, that is a question that I admit to be one fairly open to discussion, and I am not at all satisfied, at the present moment, of the wisdom of entering into a general policy of this character, and as it is one, as I