

grant of \$65,000 made to the Province will carry into operation the recommendations of the Administration. Manitoba had a right to an increased allocation, in harmony with the present size of its population and its contributions to the general funds of the Dominion, under the provisions of the Manitoba Act. Its existing difficulties will not be of long duration, and the steady flow of immigration will be one of the causes which will lead to a better state of things. The delegation above mentioned demanded seriously that to which they were entitled, and did not hold out the hand for charity; and it was not reasonable to impose on its members conditions which struck a blow at the privileges with which the Province was invested by the Act to which I have referred. The Legislature of Manitoba was obliged to accept the suggestions made, and in decreeing the abolition of the Legislative Council, its members acted with a view to the public interest, rather than from motives of economy. The Council, with its membership of seven, only cost the Province about three thousand dollars per annum, and the Legislative Assembly, in the interest of the people, could not see any way of refusing to ratify a change which rather diminished the prerogatives of the Crown than affected popular liberties. In place of a half measure of this nature, it might have been better to have entirely remodelled the Manitoba Act, extending the limits of the Province to the Rocky Mountains, governing the immense territory under provisions analagous with those which are in force in British Columbia, whereby a great deal of money would be without doubt saved. During the next ten years Fort Garry or Winnipeg could be the capital of the North-West Territory, whence it would be more easy to administer the Government than from any other point which could be chosen for the purpose. Before taking my seat I will say that it is my intention to express my views frankly when occasion offers, with the hope that I will suggest something to the Government that may be of service to the Province I have the honour, in a certain measure, to represent.

Hon. Mr. READ—I have ventured on one or two occasions to address the House on matters relating to the financial position of the country, and before the Address passes, I would like to say a few words upon it as a whole. I do not think that we can complain of it, because there

is very little in it—a clear proof of the wisdom of the late Administration in framing such measures for the good government of the country that we neither require at present new enactments of any importance, or to have others repealed. To the first paragraph of the Address I must certainly say amen; for, to my mind, this is the proper season for the assembling of Parliament, when we can, and are accustomed to, spare the time to give that deliberation to measures brought before us that they demand. Every one will admit the great importance to this country of the speeches made by His Excellency the Governor General, and their benefit, indeed, can scarcely be appreciated. The next paragraph has reference to the depression and stagnation of business prevailing throughout the neighbouring country, and felt in the Old World, which have affected our trade. I think that the Government is chargeable with some of the causes leading to this state of things. Every one is aware that they sent a Commissioner to Washington, and we know that gentleman's opinions regarding the trade policy of this country, for he had not kept them secret, and we all believe that he is a "power behind the throne." We all know that if he could do it, the existing policy of this country would be changed. And what do we find? That as soon as he was sent there the manufacturers of this country took alarm. They saw that if he carried a measure in accordance with his views, to them it meant money. They buttoned up their pockets, and each man began to contrive, not to extend, but curtail his operations in every possible manner. This was one of the effects of sending that gentleman to Washington, and the class of the population which I have mentioned was not the only section affected. Canadian merchants began to look around and perceive that the success of this mission meant great loss to them, and to seek methods of protecting themselves. This was not all; nearly every projected enterprise of this country was stopped, and a general feeling of uncertainty began to prevail as to what was best to be done. People shrank from entering into new undertakings and spending money, for were the measures proposed carried through this Parliament and the United States Houses, it was a question whether they would not entail direct taxation. This is to my mind one of the causes of the present depression affecting certain classes in this country, because I deny that the great mass of the people suffer