

in the Speech that new communication by rail has been effected between Manitoba and the United States system of railways, by the junction at St. Vincent of the Pembina Branch of our railway with the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. Whether this is to prove an advantage to our people or not, I am not prepared to say. Whether the effect will be to draw off settlers and traffic to the United States, to the detriment of the Dominion, remains to be seen. But I have no doubt that at present the road is beneficial. A great public writer once said that, if he was to go into a country and seek to judge of its condition and progress, instead of looking at its statesmen, educational or scientific institutions, he would regard the mode of communication existing therein — the means afforded people not only to exchange commodities, but to interchange thought and ideas. If this is correct, I believe it would apply to Canada as well as any other country. We have a large country, and what we want is to know more of each other, and to promote emigration to our country. And how can you expect men who have been obliged to tear themselves from all the endearments that bind them to their homes in the old world, in seeking a home in the new, to prefer a land not affording all these facilities and conveniences that in no small degree tend to lessen the difficulties that emigrants have to encounter in fighting the battle of life? When we have such a country as Canada, with its inexhaustible resources, how necessary is it to try to turn them to proper account and keep pace with our neighbours, to do which it is important to obtain every reasonable communication our means can command. We are promised a Bill for the amendment of the Acts relating to stamps as well as a measure amending the Act relating to weights and measures. I have no doubt those amendments contemplated will prove useful reforms and result in rendering more efficient those branches of the Public Service. It is also the intention of the Government to introduce a measure for the purpose of preparing for the census to be taken in 1881. I have no doubt that it is absolutely necessary for the accurate performance of this public work that the Government should enter upon the pre-

liminary operations in good time. It is very necessary, as we all know, that the census should be as accurate as possible. There is also an assurance given that the Government will consider the propriety of providing some means for the collection and collation of vital, criminal and general statistics. There can be no doubt that accurate vital statistics would be of great consequence to the country. With such you may be greatly aided in the settlement of questions affecting the rights of property, such as when and where a man was born and the like, often occasioning much difficulty. Accurate statistics in the public register would supply all such important information and prove most useful in legislating on sanitary and criminal questions, and in the amendment or amelioration of our criminal code. We are also informed by His Excellency, in the following paragraph that a Bill will be submitted for the re-arrangement of some of the Departments. It is a matter of public notoriety that it is contemplated to abolish the Department of the Receiver-General. I believe the new measure will and should reduce the labours of the Minister of Public Works. I am sure that the hon. the leader of the Opposition will quite agree with me that the labours entailed on the head of that Department are more than ought to be expected from any man. I believe that the railway policy throughout this Dominion will call for the entire energy and attention of a separate Department, and that, as the office of Receiver-General is to be done away with, the cost of the administration will not be increased while the work will be very efficiently advanced. The Estimates of the ensuing year will no doubt be made with a due regard to the state of the revenue at the present time, while also the efficiency of the Public Service will not be lost sight of. I now come to the clause that is considered the most important in the Speech, dealing with a subject which last year was placed by the late Government fairly before the country, which was discussed throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, and on which the people have returned a verdict so unanimous as to leave no doubt of their wishes. Of course, a little patience must be exercised, but in a few days the inten-

MR. BRECKEN.