

that the location of this road cannot only be defended, but can be successfully justified. We were informed that in the early part of the coming summer the road will be not only completed but actually in running order. I hope—indeed, I am sure—my hon. friend at the head of the Government will early direct his attention (if he has not already done so) to the best mode of running that road, and that he will be in a position, before the conclusion of the Session, to inform this House and the country whether it is the intention of the Government to work it directly as a Government road, or to make running arrangements with other roads. Whether he does so or not, I will venture to call his attention now, as I have on a previous occasion privately done, to the necessity, when that road is in actual every-day use, of taking steps to protect water-borne freight coming from the West from undue competition by this line.—I have no doubt the Island of Prince Edward is already enjoying great advantages from the opening of the Prince Edward Island Railway. It is true we see in the newspapers that there are some faint grumbings in the Island regarding the manner in which the road has been constructed and is now being conducted; but I have no doubt the Minister of the Interior will cast oil on the troubled waters, and those murmurs will be confined to the Island and not extended to our quiet arena. With respect to the clause connected with the Fisheries and compensation for their use, I can only say I regret that any circumstances have prevented the appointment of an arbitrator by the United States, and retarded the progress of the reference and final settlement of the question. I presume the United States have reasons for the delay, and if so, that they will be submitted to this House. With respect to the establishment of a Supreme and Exchequer Court, all I can say is this—that I congratulate the country and give due praise to the Administration for the selection of the bench for that court. I believe on the whole it is a strong and efficient bench, that it has given confidence to the country, and as sometimes it may be our duty to

criticize, and perhaps animadvert strongly upon the conduct of the Administration, it is but due they should receive praise from my hands and from the hands of us all, when they are deserving of it. I was glad to see yesterday the lively proof of the consummation of that Act. It brought to my mind associations of Westminster Hall, and to use an old joke, I have no doubt experience will show that although the garb of the judges is bright scarlet they will show themselves to be "deep read." The measures that are propounded, so far as I have been able to understand the Address, are merely details of what has happened. There is no indication of what the action of the Government is to be for the present Session. The measures that are mentioned here are all of a practical character. They are not of overwhelming importance, and I think the country will not suffer much in prosperity, credit or happiness, if not one of them should be passed this Session. Still they are practical, and as we cannot always be in heroics, we must be satisfied with every-day business. The measures respecting Common Carriers, Life Insurance Companies—giving greater security to policy holders—and systematizing statistics about criminals, are all very well in their way, and I have no doubt they will occupy us but a short time. I think that gentlemen on this side—especially those belonging to the late Government—must thank most gratefully the present Administration for the testimony that they are about to give to the value of the legislation of past years. They do not speak of reforming that legislation. They are going to continue it, consolidate it, put it in wax, embalm it for the benefit of posterity. The legislation of the past, we are assured, is to be put into a volume and preserved as a monument of wisdom for future generations. The Acts relating to the Indians that are promised, will be of very great importance indeed. Of course, until we see them, we cannot say what their extent may be, or what their nature. From the manner in which they are to be introduced, and from the fact stated that the Indians themselves are to be consulted as to their

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