

would submit only such measures as could be approved of, and he was sure the Senate would give them a fair and impartial consideration. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD, (Victoria) said. I regret that the speech from the Throne did not place something definite before us with regard to the Canada Pacific Railway. I hoped to have heard that the easy construction of this work had been fully determined upon in the most vigorous and expeditious manner, but although we have not been told this, yet I am willing to believe that the Government will lose no time in pushing on this great work, and that their scheme will be a liberal and comprehensive one, satisfactory to the country generally, and to British Columbia in particular. Our Province expects that the railway will be commenced this year, and nothing short of a down right earnest beginning and prosecution will satisfy us, not a commencement, merely to keep within the letter of the law. I understand that the plans and surveys of the Pacific end of the road have not been destroyed by the late fire, and that there is no good reason why the work should not be commenced without much delay. While caution is to be used, and while British Columbia does not wish to cripple the resources of the country, she at the same time expects earnestness and vigour to be used in carrying out this work. Although this road is of vital importance to British Columbia, it is none the less necessary to the progress of the whole Dominion as the only means of filling up our waste lands and keeping pace with other nations. I trust that the Government scheme, or railway policy, will at an early day be laid before Parliament, being a very important matter, the discussion of which will doubtless occupy considerable time. The sooner it comes before us the better.

The Hon. Mr. WARK said he did not wonder that there should be a desire that the work of constructing this railway should be entered upon as soon as possible, but he would not be in a hurry, because a railway was a thing that could be laid down, but it could not be taken up again, and a blunder at the outset would be one of a permanent character. He hoped it would not be undertaken prematurely, nor until all the features of the country were fairly investigated, and all the information obtained that it was desirable to have. It was highly desirable that the Government should obtain this before they commenced, and as it was desirable that the session should not be prolonged,

it was doubtful whether that information could be obtained in time. But he trusted that what had been done would be carried through, at all events, if not in the first session. It was not desirable in this first session that they should attempt too much but whatever they did should be done thoroughly. Reference had been made to the measure for taking votes by ballot, and that measure he looked upon as one of progress. If the people were to be deprived of the right to vote by ballot, it would be forcing them back to the evils of the old open voting system. In New Brunswick and other places the scheme had obtained the hearty approval of the people. He would only say in conclusion with regard to the Pacific Railway that the late Government had not been very successful in the matter. It was unfortunate that they had undertaken to complete it so early.

The Hon. Mr. CORNWALL said that the people of British Columbia were now and had been for some months past in great doubt as to what the policy of the Government was with regard to the Pacific Railway.

The Hon. Mr. READ said that the first paragraph in the Speech alluded to existing commercial depression, but he did not know where. He supposed it meant Canada, but if that was what was meant he must say that he differed with the language used in the paragraph. He thought it was very unfortunate that such a paragraph should have been placed in the Speech, and at a time when we were asking for a new reciprocity treaty with the United States. If there had been a commercial depression in the country, he had failed to discover it, and to satisfy his mind on this point, he had referred to statistics, and, perhaps, as good a test as any with regard to the country's prosperity was the bank capital of the country. The result of his examination of these statistics was as follows: Paid up bank capital, 30th November, 1872, \$48,767,532; paid up bank capital, February 28th, 1874, \$58,237,671; increase since 30th November, 1872, \$9,470,138; bank deposits other than the Government deposits, November 30th, 1872, \$52,906,992; 28th February, 1874, \$58,773,779; increase from 30th November, 1872, to 28th February, 1874, \$5,866,786; bank capital paid up to 30th June, 1870, \$29,801,113; increase in three years and nine months, \$28,435,892; bank circulation, March, 1873, \$26,575,223; Feb. 28th, 1874, \$28,343,195; increase, \$1,767,972. He objected to the paragraph, and it should have been made to read something