

re-echoed by hon. gentlemen in this House who are supporters of the Government. If they admit their incapacity to deal with this question, they must admit to that extent, they are abdiquating the functions of a Government. The hon. Secretary of State will recollect that in the course of this debate the hon. gentleman who introduced the Address, in trying to explain a ground for the depression of trade, spoke of its being the result of expensive living, of extravagance, and to some extent there is no doubt it has a great deal to do with it, but will the hon. gentleman allow me to remind him how that is met in private life. Let him go to London at the present moment where I admit there is very great depression, and he will find thousands of servants thrown out of employment in consequence of gentlemen contracting their expenses in order to meet the altered circumstances of the times. What do we find in this Speech? Do we find the slightest allusion made to the necessity of accommodating our expenditure to the altered state of the country? No, there is no allusion to it, and we only find an allusion in a paragraph that in remodelling the departments the expenses will not be increased. That is the only consolation we get. Under the circumstances there will be a deep feeling of disappointment in the country, and it is vain to escape the conclusion that the country will feel there is neither the power nor the will to pass any legislation which will remove the great cloud of depression that overshadows the Dominion at the present moment. I do not intend to occupy any further time in this discussion because the various matters which I conceive wholly incidental to this debate have been imported into it, and amply discussed, perhaps to our very great profit. We have all listened with much pleasure to the Speech we have just heard, and even members of the Government will accord great credit to the hon. gentleman for the labor and pains he has taken in collecting the information which he has laid before the House, and for bringing to the notice of the Ministers of the Crown matters which deeply affect the interests of this country. Before sitting down I cannot refrain from referring to the paragraph in the Address relating to the Governor-General's visit to the North-West Provinces, and to the very qualified expression that is

there given on the Vice-Regal visit, and its results, in terms certainly none too strong. If we are prevented by Parliamentary etiquette from giving any warmer expression of our pleasure, yet, individually, we must all recognize the very great benefit of that visit, and the lucid, stirring and eloquent speeches of His Excellency, so important to the future of this country. I may be permitted to add that the amiable and accomplished lady who accompanied him in all his peregrinations, will share with him the feelings of regret which all of us will experience when the hour arrives for them to leave the shores of this Dominion, in whose fortunes they have ever evinced so deep an interest.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—The hon. leader of the Opposition, with the courtesy that he has always shown to this House, in answering the mover and seconder of the Address, has, in the course of his remarks, said that due diligence had not been used by the Government in the construction of the Pembina Branch. This remark has been repeated by other members, and a more serious charge has been made by the hon. member for Saugeen, that it is not unlikely that the Government had some interest in the Transportation Company that prevented the construction of the Pembina Branch on the American side, and some influence must have been used by the Government on the American companies. This is a serious charge, and I hope the House will require some better proof than the hon. gentleman's statement that there has been any corrupt understanding or agreement in this matter. The reason why the Government did not continue the building of that branch is perfectly defensible. Three years ago the Government commenced work on the Pembina branch. The grading of the road was nearly completed, and the rails were brought there with the hope that the American companies would do what they promised to do—extend their lines to the frontier. Unfortunately, since that time, from year to year, something has prevented them, or some influence has been exercised on the American company, to cause delay in building their road. Efforts have been made by this Government every year to have our part of the road built, but seeing that the American companies were not