

our feeders require for the purpose of preparing for a more extensive exportation. It also deprives two of our great lines of railway of a vast amount of freight which they would otherwise carry to Atlantic ports. I have only to express my hope that the Government will earnestly consider whether any alteration or amelioration of that order can be made such as will at once ensure safety for the trade and for the health of the cattle of Canada, and not injure the interest to which I have referred. It is, undoubtedly, as has been stated, one of the most important branches of our commerce at the present time, and anything tending to check the growth of such a great business must have, under the present circumstances especially, a most injurious effect upon the agricultural prosperity of the country. With regard to the measures taken, or proposed to be taken, or both, I believe—for I observe that a commission has been sent to some parts of Europe, and it is, I presume, proposed to take some further measures—to increase the trade with France and Spain, that is a matter which gave the recent Administration a good deal of anxiety, and which they considered with very great care; and I can only say that, if the present Administration can find any method by which the natural trade of those countries can be diverted to Canada, and Canadian trade to these countries, such measures not only have our concurrence, but our most cordial support. It is one of those matters that require the united action of this Legislature, and as such will, of course, receive all the support we can give it. In that connection I am happy to congratulate my hon. friend who moved the Address upon the change of policy which he has announced with regard to himself. I was delighted to hear that for the future he is to put his country first and his party afterwards. That is such a complete right-about-face on his part, that I am glad he mentioned it, because I am very much pleased in having him as a convert to a doctrine which, on this side of the House, we have always believed in. We have a paragraph, Sir, which I am somewhat at a loss to understand, concerning the construction of the Pacific Railway. There are gentlemen on the opposite side, and when I

come to discuss that question upon its merits, I shall probably refer to the views of several hon. gentlemen; but I will merely say that there are gentlemen there who denounced the late Government for spending so much money upon this railway; and there are gentlemen there who denounced the late Administration for not proceeding faster with that railway; and now, Sir, it seems that they are taking up exactly the line which the late Administration took. I presume that there is no instance on record where so much work was done in constructing a railroad through an unsettled and unknown country as was done during the last four years. There is no instance, I say, on record where so much was done in prosecuting the initial part of such an enterprise. We constructed that line with the particular view that everything was to be subordinated to the one condition, that it was not to increase the existing rate of taxation in the country, and I am glad to see that hon. gentlemen opposite are also to proceed speedily, as they say, but, at the same time, with a due regard to the financial capacities of the country. So far there seems to be no difference of opinion, but we are told here that they shall proceed with the work in such a manner as to meet the reasonable expectations of British Columbia. This is a diplomatic sentence. It may imply that all their expectations are reasonable, or it may mean that, if they are reasonable, their expectations will be realized. Perhaps the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government will tell us which is the interpretation to be put on these words. I am bound to say, Sir, we have not found hitherto that the expectations of our friends from British Columbia were of the most moderate character. Perhaps the hon. member for Victoria knows exactly what is the nature of those expectations.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD :
There are two of us.

MR. MACKENZIE : Of course, the hon. member for Victoria must know precisely what he and his constituents expect—that is, if he is the member, of which there is some reasonable doubt, I believe. He will at all events know what the reasonable expectations are. I have only to say that I shall await with the greatest pos-