

to His Excellency, in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE said: "In rising to second the motion that has just been made I think I may very fairly observe that the circumstances under which Parliament has met are such as are subject for congratulation, not only by this House, but by the people of Canada, particularly so when contrasted with the state of affairs which exist in the adjoining Republic. Yesterday, Her Majesty the Queen's representative spoke to the people's representatives, and we find ourselves enabled to proceed with the business of the session without being called upon to make provision as to who should be the future head of our estate. The speech of His Excellency comprises a large number of important subjects of interest to the people of the Dominion. His Excellency's visit to British Columbia was attended, no doubt, with happy results, as it has established a sounder state of information, not only in the other provinces of the Dominion, but also in Great Britain, and throughout Europe, as to the capabilities and prospects of that important Province. The London press was very much misinformed, generally speaking, upon the circumstances that created the difficulty which exists between British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada, but the visit of His Excellency threw new and fresh light on their relations toward each other, and what the natures of the difficulties that unhappily occurred really were. Honorable members will regret that the progress of the construction of the Pacific Railway has been so retarded, not by indolence or parsimony, or any such cause on the part of the Government, but from natural difficulties which have been found absolutely necessary to surmount before the location of the road can be finally established. We all know that across an open stretch of prairie country it is not a difficult task to locate a railway even though there is an absence of population and a difficulty in transporting supplies; but in Europe we find that for over twenty centuries the Alps have formed an almost insurmountable barrier to traffic between France and Italy. Honourable gentlemen will remember that an enterprising leader once crossed the Alps with an army and remained for a time master of Italy. Two thousand years later a French General performed the same feat with a similar result. Since that time the pass has been improved by macadamized roads, but it is only within our own time that engineering skill has succeeded in forcing a tunnel through those mountains, and the construction of another one is under way.

Taking then the analogy of Europe it cannot consistently, with a common sense view of the subject, be expected that the American Continent should be crossed from ocean to ocean without encountering some such difficulties as the Cascade Mountain range presents. Eventually these difficulties may have to be overcome by the slow and expensive process of tunneling, but no doubt this delay will lead to good results, as it will be the means of having the best and most judicious route adopted. In looking at the existing difficulties between British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada, I sympathise with the position of the colonists who occupy so distant and interesting a portion of our Dominion, and if we can in any way reconcile them for the delay in the continuation of the railway we ought to do everything in our power to that end. I can scarcely look upon anything of greater importance or interest to the Dominion of Canada or the United States than the continuance and improvement of the extradition treaty. The interruption which occurred in the carrying out of that treaty arose from a rather extravagant view which the British Government took of the terms of the old treaty. They seemed to hold that a criminal should not be extradited unless he was to be tried only upon the charge on which the extradition took place, and should that charge fall through he should be allowed to go at large and prey upon society again. I think it is an unwise interpretation of the treaty, and if such an interpretation can be put on it, it should be amended. Political criminals were held to be outside of all extradition treaties, and Great Britain has been looked upon as a sort of refuge for political offenders, where they could always find a welcome and a home. I cannot help thinking that political crimes should come within the scope of the Extradition Treaty, inasmuch as political conspiracies and revolutions sometimes lead to great loss of life and property. I think in the course of such political experiments, if life and property should be lost, the originators of such disturbances should be considered subjects that ought to come within the terms of the Extradition Treaty. I believe there is ample room for an improvement in the Treaty, and I hope that His Excellency's efforts in that direction will be crowned with success. In the matter of the St. Lawrence navigation and the canals required to complete the system, every one will regard the prosecution of works of that kind as of great importance to this country. Without canals we have to conduct our commerce at greatly enhanced prices. By improving our canal system we have chosen