

the commerce of the country. The depression in trade and the necessity for strict economy to avoid increased taxation are deplored by all. I am sure we shall join heartily in adopting such measures as may be calculated to restore prosperity to the country. I join in the expression of gratification at the establishment of the Supreme Court. I think the selections to the bench of that tribunal have been happily made, and that the gentlemen who have been called to these high positions will have the confidence of the country, so that they may look forward to a long and prosperous career. I am sorry that there is not a paragraph in the Speech about immigration, as I am desirous of an opportunity to congratulate my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture on the appointment of the gentleman who replaces Agent-General Jenkins, —an appointment which will be a great advantage to the country. I cannot say as much for his predecessor. When the appointment of Mr. Jenkins was made it was feared that he was totally unfit for the position, and these fears have been unhappily realized. It was a matter of extreme surprise when he was appointed. No one seemed to know how it came about, and I think the Government would find it difficult to explain. A more unfortunate appointment could not have been made; he did no good, but he did harm, for he made himself a subject of ridicule all over England and Scotland, and finally wound up by a communication to a paper in which he says he has lost his office through Ultramontane influence. If it has been Ultramontane influence, it has come from my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture. I propose to offer no opposition to the Address and shall be glad to join in carrying it through the House.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD—I will profit by the latitude permitted on an occasion like the present, to make a few remarks, which will not contain any threats with regard to the Government, but rather a respectful claim on its attention on the part of the Province which I have the honour to represent. Besides, I would not threaten the Government in connection with a Speech delivered by His Excellency, which indeed would afford no opportunity for such action, even if I were so inclined. I agree with the hon. gentleman who moved the Address, that the first paragraph will be received with great satisfaction from one end of the country to the other, for the action of the

distinguished representative of Her Majesty here, in all the different circumstances in which he has been placed, calculated as it has been to strengthen the tie which unites us to England, and the love we bear for British Institutions, has been of such a nature as to give us the greatest pleasure. We are informed that the gigantic enterprise of building the Intercolonial Railway will be completed at an early date, creating facilities for the conveyance of merchandise from the most distant portions of Ontario to Halifax, and forming the first part of that great artery which will join the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and which should be built in the general interest of the Provinces of the Dominion. I do not doubt that the completion of the railway on Prince Edward's Island is a remarkable fact in its history, and I am sure that if the road under construction from the limits of the Province of Manitoba to Fort Garry be finished during the coming year, it will also be a most important event, not only in the annals of the Province, but of the whole Dominion. Among the different measures whose submission is promised, I observe that the Government intend to commence the revision of the Statutes, a work requiring the most scrupulous care, as a large number of the laws of the Dominion were taken *en bloc* from the legislation of its different Provincial parts, enacted previous to Confederation, and it is almost impossible, under the circumstances, for Magistrates to perform their duties with clear ideas as to their proper powers. I am glad to notice that the Government proposes to take into consideration matters touching the interests of the Indians, because the time has arrived when they should know what will be done for their support, on the disappearance of the buffalo from their hunting grounds—no distant event. The task to be undertaken is a serious one, but means must be taken to face a position to which so much responsibility is attached. A large number of strangers have settled in Manitoba. A measure should be introduced during the present session to facilitate their naturalization, and I believe that such a step would encourage foreigners to make their homes permanently in our midst. In the latter portion of the Speech from the Throne, allusion is made to the circumstance that a deputation arrived last autumn from Manitoba to plead the cause of that Province, and it is certain that its Government, while using the