

Railway may possibly be given up as a Government work, if advisable, but given up only by getting business men to take possession of it and pay us back the original cost of that railroad. A clause in the Address says "that during the recess a friendly conference took place between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland." We had an interesting discussion on Newfoundland matters in this House last year, and it is a matter of congratulation, I think, to the whole country, that the differences and difficulties that did exist between the people of Newfoundland and ourselves have been so happily adjusted or are in process of adjustment as His Excellency in his speech to this House has shown them to be. So far as Newfoundland is concerned, of course, nothing would give greater pleasure or satisfaction to the Canadian people than to find that they were prepared to unite their forces with us and that we were in a position to make such satisfactory terms with the people of Newfoundland as would enable them to do so. I may also congratulate the late Minister of Customs on the vigorous efforts he put forth to stop the smuggling in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, that was shown to have existed there by the reports produced in this House last year, quotations from which were read. At the same time there is a great deal to be done in that direction still. It is an evil, an injustice to the country that smuggling should be permitted to exist, and that it does exist there, I think, was clearly proved by the operations of last summer. I would draw the attention of the House and of the leader of the Government to the fact that smuggling is to a certain extent helped and assisted in a manner by the fines which are given to officials. It is quite possible under the present policy of dividing the fines with the officials for discovering the smuggled goods, to bring from the United States distilleries as well as from the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, a quantity of liquor free of duty, and permit it to be seized, and the informer and the man who smuggles can thus divide the profits evenly and still leave a sufficient sum to pay for the whole cost of the voyage. If I am correct in that statement, I say that condition of affairs should be stopped and no premium should be offered to the officials of the country to leave room for suspicion that such a thing can be done.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—How can that be stopped without lowering the duty?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—That is the only way it can be done.

Hon. Mr. McMILLAN—You would take off the duty entirely?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—No. I would not take the duty off spirits. I am speaking now of our public servants. It is an injustice to them to put temptation in their way, and an injustice to the country if such a system prevails as would enable those officials to do such a thing as I have described. It is to be hoped that the same vigour will be used in checking smuggling into the country as the late Minister of Customs put forth. As the hon. gentleman opposite has said, free trade will remedy that by confining smuggling to spirits and wines and luxuries only.

Hon. Mr. READ—Not free trade in whiskey?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I was going to say that if we did adopt free trade as my hon. friend very properly says, not free trade in whiskey, therefore, as long as the duties remain on the spirits that same disposition to smuggle will prevail.

Hon. Mr. READ—I think the hon. gentleman is getting towards direct taxation very nearly.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—He is there already.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—There is one important question which received no attention from His Excellency, and that is the Manitoba school question, which has created a great deal of interest in the country. It was referred to by the hon. seconder of this Address. He said that while he was anxious to see the country prosper, and its development go on—to see the great West built up, he hoped the people there would act in a liberal manner in their legislation. That, I take it, was a reference to the school question. Now, I entertain my own views with regard to that matter—a view, perhaps, that many might expect me to differ in. Personally, as a private citizen, I believe that if our