

shortened, and this discussion would not have taken place. When I read the first paragraph in the Speech from the Throne, I felt comforted that, as we were to have only ordinary business, we should have a short Session, but, as I found it followed by eighteen other paragraphs, I could not help thinking that we would not have the pleasure of spending our Easter holidays at home, and that there was a good deal of truth in the criticism that "what the Speech lacked in depth it made up in length." The third paragraph refers to the Washington Treaty and the award made under it by the Fisheries Commission. I do sincerely hope that we have heard the last of all those carping criticisms on the Washington Treaty, as ill-timed as they were unpatriotic. I think the Government are entitled to credit, certainly they shall receive that credit from me, for recommending for Commissioner on that Commission of Enquiry so distinguished a man, and so able a statesman as Sir A. T. Galt. The officials of the Marine and Fisheries Department are also entitled to credit for the manner in which the case was presented at Halifax, and I think it is nothing more than due that I should express the opinion which was impressed on my mind when witnessing the closing scenes of that celebrated Convention, that great credit is due to the leading Counsel of the Dominion, Mr. Thompson, for his exhaustive and eloquent summing up of the British case, which extorted even the admiration of his opponents. Whatever may be thought of the provisions of the Washington Treaty, or of the inadequacy of the sum awarded, we must all agree that a new epoch has been introduced in the settlement of international differences, a peaceful arbitration tending to lasting good-will between the two great English speaking nations of the earth. There is a reference made in the 13th paragraph to the necessity of opening up and settling the North-West, but I am sorry to find there is nothing in the Speech or Answer referring to the probable early establishment of communication with that territory. It does seem to me that before talking of settling a country they should at all events afford to settlers the means of getting into it through the highways of our own Dominion, whether it be by the

*Hon. Mr. Dickey.*

Dawson route or by an all-rail route. Certainly we should complete the communication before we talk about what is to be done when settlers get there. There are other measures foreshadowed in the Speech, which I do not feel it necessary to advert to just now, because I think it is more convenient to reserve criticism until those measures are laid before us. There are some remarkable omissions, one or two of which have been referred to already. There is only an incidental allusion to the great commercial depression which has overshadowed the land. There is not a word about the causes of that depression, or of any remedial legislation to alleviate its pressure, nor by readjustment of our fiscal legislation to aid the struggling industries of this country, while no less than two paragraphs are devoted to the distinguished Indian, Sitting Bull! Whatever my hon. friend the Secretary of State, and the Government may think; however little importance they may attach to this matter, I think they will find ere long there will be a deep feeling of disappointment in the country that there is no allusion made, except a most remote one, to the commercial depression of this country, and there is no remedy proposed to relieve the continued depression of the trade and industries of the Dominion. The hon. Secretary of State announced an extraordinary constitutional doctrine yesterday, when he said: "What can the Government do? The Government can do nothing." If my hon. friend is sincere in making that statement—and I have the right to think he is—he must have abdicated the functions of Government altogether. Are we not always legislating to assist trade and commerce? What is your free list in your tariff or your varying scale of duties, but a legislative effort to aid the industries of this country? I might go through the list of legislative measures and show without any difficulty in what way you can alleviate this depression by wise fiscal legislation, by placing the burthen of taxation on goods coming into this country that enter into immediate competition with our native industries, and admitting at low duties articles we cannot produce here, such as raw sugar, &c. I am not going into this to-day, but I merely notice the extraordinary statement that the Government have no power, and the sentiment is