

very near the Sault on the main line and all the way to the Sault by a branch, and it is now regarded as a very good thing, as an excellent thing, as a sort of betterment if possible of the Government policy, that a route should be adopted which enables them to go near to the Sault on the main line and altogether to the Sault at an early day. We said that the provisions as to the exemptions, the lack of restrictions in the conditions with reference to the lands, were likely to result in regulations not in the interests of the public, and I need not do more than point to the various series of land regulations issued by the railway for proof of that statement. It is true, and I rejoice to see it, that they have been modified lately in important respects; but in their objectionable form they are still quite within the competence of the Company. We cannot well find fault with the Company, for we gave them power to make them, and we knew that it would be to their interests to make them—the responsibility is on the Administration; nor do I believe that they would have been such as they are to-day, and still less, such as they were some time ago, if it had not been that power was given to the Company to hold their lands free from taxation, and had not absolute power been given them without restriction as to the mode of disposing of them. We said that the valuation of lands which the Government made for the purposes of the contract was a valuation contradicted by their own views of the year before, and a valuation not according to our reasonable anticipations of that time. This is proved from public documents and by the regulations issued by the Government itself as to its own lands, where lands at a greater distance from the railway than the railway lands and less advantageously situated are offered for sale at prices far in excess of those at which it was proposed to value the choice neighboring lands for the purposes of the contract last Session. I believe it is extraordinary the extent to which already events have gone in the direction of verifying those views which, as to some of the points, may require many years for their full development. I observe that we are offered for our consideration some subjects with which we are not wholly unfamiliar. Once again, there is a promise of a Bill for the reforming of the Civil Service, and my hon. friend, the member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) in effect, if not in terms, informs us that he wants it to be an efficacious Bill, that he wants to preserve the patronage, but that he wants to secure it only for capable persons, and so on. I think he will find it extremely difficult to combine these two objects, and, if he succeeds, I would recommend him at the earliest possible moment to send in a draft of his measure to the Administration, who, I am sure, will receive it with that consideration due to so devoted a follower, and may receive from it new light on this important subject. But, so far as I can judge of the laws of modern days on this subject, and from the statements of the first report of this Commission itself, they differ rather from the view of the hon. gentleman, and I believe that the exercise of that political patronage is at the root of many of the most serious evils which certainly beset our existing Civil Service system. I find also reference to a Bill for the winding up of incorporated insurance companies, banks and trading corporations. That also is an old dish. When the Insolvent Act was repealed the Government assented to the view that its repeal should be conditional on such a measure, and it was promised that such a measure should be introduced. It was found impossible, I suppose, to redeem that pledge during that Session; the next Session it was promised but not brought down; but, as the third time is the charm, we may now expect to have the Bill brought down. We are also promised a measure relating to fugitive offenders within the Empire. Such a measure may be necessary, but I do say that there is a cognate subject of much greater importance—I mean the present condition of the law with

Mr. BLAKE.

reference to the extradition of fugitive criminals from foreign countries. I say that the condition of our law is a disgrace, that the proceedings going on from time to time prove it, and that we should take very earnest and strenuous measures to secure the improvement of those arrangements between ourselves and other countries, and notably the United States, which are now existing, and to secure the substitution of some other and better convention for the antiquated Ashburton Treaty, or if that were found to be impossible, to make provision for legislative extradition. I think that we should largely increase the range of crimes which ought to be the subject of extradition, and that we should secure the provision of this House of a few years ago before the coming into force of a better, simpler, more harmonious and plain mode of administering the law. The question was carefully discussed in a case which arose the other day, but I do not know whether it will be possible to get over the difficulty in that case under the Ashburton Treaty. In that case a proposal was made to extradite a man who is acknowledged to be a criminal—and what is the difficulty in the way? It is very sure that the person in question is a criminal, for he is not only an accused person, but one who was sentenced, convicted, committed to prison, and who afterwards broke gaol. The difficulty is that under the Ashburton Treaty he ought to be sent across the lines for trial, but because he has been tried, sentenced, and was undergoing sentence when he escaped, you cannot get him back again. I see by the newspapers that a fresh charge is to be made against this individual for some other crime for which he has not had the good fortune to be tried, and I hope that the proceedings thus taken will result in his being extradited. But is it not disgraceful that it should be even a question of doubt whether such an individual should be free to remain on our shores? The Speech refers, although in terms perhaps less strong than some former references when steps were proposed to be taken on the subject, to fresh outlets for our trade and commerce, and to the starting of a line between this country and Brazil. I rejoice to learn from the hon. gentlemen who have spoken that they take a deep interest in the extension of our trade and commerce, and are desirous of forwarding them in every way. So are we all. We may believe that the methods pursued by the present Administration and supported by these hon. gentlemen may not be well calculated to enable this country to compete in the markets of the world, or that the projects which they bring forward are such as would enable us to exchange profitably, and we are all quite anxious that that should happen. And I say here, what I said years ago, that if we are going to make real progress in that direction, it must be that we ought to have our own agents, and that we ought to have further power to make those conventional arrangements with foreign countries; and until we—recognizing the fact that our situation is peculiar, that it is our own situation, that our own people understand our own business and our own situation better—undertake to discharge that duty ourselves and on our own account, but little progress will be made by the hon. gentlemen in the accomplishing of arrangements which, if the conditions of this country were different, would result in a profitable outlet for our manufactures, and a profitable exchange for our natural products. The executive administration, Mr. Speaker, is becoming a greater element in the public transactions of the year, and ought to receive more and more the careful attention of Parliament. More and more, year by year, are important matters, which formerly would have been supposed to be within the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament, handed over to the control of the Executive, and our action is that of the criticism of the past, instead of the potential action of deciding what the course shall be. Take the land regulations, for example. Those who think most of the North-West must feel most warmly as to the magnitude of that topic. It is admitted that the prosperity and progress