

influenced and guided by more patriotic views and principles, to sustain and protect every Canadian institution and interest. Our astute neighbors, the Americans, are gradually picking up our foreign and domestic trade. Their insurance companies are carrying off a large amount of money annually from the country. Their manufacturers, if not met with corresponding astuteness, by our placing in power our ablest public men, will gradually shut up a large number of our workshops and throw out of employment a large population. Then again, have we always been guided by a proper spirit of patriotism, in upholding our own great Canadian railways to which we owe the great and rapid development of our country? Have we invariably shown that consideration to those English capitalists who put so many millions sterling into those railways, no doubt as an investment of money, but from which we have received all the benefit, while they have been receiving no dividends upon such a large amount of share capital. Those two great Trunk lines, as the other railways, have necessarily been worked on ordinary railway business principles. If we are to have railways properly steeled and appointed in all their plant and stock, so as not to endanger human life, and serve all the interest of trade, we must admit that they ought to earn their way fairly. No one in this Dominion can with truth allege that excessive railway fares or freights have ever been charged, but because from competition, those roads have been driven to carry from certain competing points at under-rates and ruinous rates, they should therefore carry from all points at such rates, simply means the whole of such roads being very soon brought to bankruptcy and ruin. The interests of trade would not longer be served, and life would no longer be safe. From this desire to drive our railways to carry at rates which can never sustain any road, have we not launched our municipalities in overwhelming debt, involving taxation which is oppressive to all classes at this moment? If the public, by such means, obtain a temporary advantage, it can only be for a short time, because roads to be properly equipped and sustained, must earn their way. Then again, we are going to be asked, this session, to grant legislation to hand over a leading through Trunk Line to the New York Central,

*Hon. Mr. Alexander.*

which, if obtained, will strike a ruinous blow at our own Canadian railways, and tend to bring them to the ground. Should we not feel a deep interest in sustaining, by every means in our power, our own first-class roads, as an essential element to our prosperity? Let us behold how our neighbors in the great Republic strengthen and build up every great national interest. We, in our Canadian Legislature, appear to be wanting in that broad patriotism. We have a class of politicians who employ themselves in schooling the people to demand some delusive, small advantage and gain at the sacrifice of the general well-being and prosperity. If we are desirous to secure the great onward progress of this country, we must make it our study to protect and sustain all those great interests and be prepared to sacrifice all small selfish considerations.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT.—I wish to touch on two or three points in the Address merely, and will not long occupy the attention of the House. We all concur in the opinion that His Excellency the Governor-General has made himself thoroughly acquainted with every province in the Dominion. And it will be a matter of so great importance to our future, that the knowledge that he has thus acquired of our people and resources, can be made available in the Parliament of Great Britain, when subjects connected with the interests of Canada come up for discussion, that every one will heartily join in that portion of the Address. With regard to the Arbitration on the Fisheries I entirely think no man could be found in this Dominion superior to Sir A. T. Galt, in conducting it. I have had an opportunity of knowing and thoroughly estimating his statesmanlike qualities upon the Confederation delegation, and I regret now, as I have before regretted, that his great services, his valuable abilities, are not within the walls of Parliament. The Speech refers to the great calamity that has occurred in the City of St. John, and I am sure I express the feelings of every inhabitant of the City and of the Province of New Brunswick, in saying that the warm sympathy evinced and large contributions given not only from every portion of the Dominion, but from our neighbors in the United States and from Great Britain, to assist