

that the construction of the road would not increase the taxation of the country, while the wish of the people was that their taxation should not be increased, they have, to-day, to meet that extra taxation without any of the resources upon which they depended at that time to meet the liabilities. Now, this is an important matter. If we go on with our present population, if we keep on at the same figure, if, instead of increasing, our population is to continue leaving us by the scores and hundreds, the result cannot fail to be very serious. Should a commercial depression occur similar to that which took place some years ago, we would have to face the most serious crisis in our finances. The Speech goes on to deal with the good crop of Manitoba, and my hon. friend from Haldimand also dilated at some length on this subject. True, Manitoba, this year, has been blessed by a superabundant crop. But the blessing of God has been taken away by the hand of man. In what has the position of the people of Manitoba, to-day, with bountiful crops, been better than it was with the scanty crops of years past? Has it been better for their wheat to stand around the stations of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to be wasted by frost, by rain or by roving animals? The evils of monopoly, of which the people of Manitoba have been complaining for so many years, were never so apparent as they have been this year. In former years the monopoly worked to the injury of the people by the increase of prices, but this year the monopoly is sending to waste what it cannot carry. When the Canadian Pacific Railway contract was under discussion, it was felt that the monopoly clause was an evil, but it was distinctly provided that the monopoly was restricted to the Territories, and that it could not affect either the Province of Manitoba or the Province of Ontario, which were exempted by name. In the language of the First Minister, it was stated that they could not check Manitoba, that the legislative power was supreme in its sphere in each Province, and could not be interfered with; but afterwards, in violation of the pledge given to the country, Manitoba was checked and the monopoly was extended over the whole Province. That was not only a fault but a crime, and I say the conduct of the Government is beyond the expression of any adequate condemnation at this time. If we want to know how far the Government is guilty towards Manitoba, let us compare their own railway policy in other parts of the country with their policy in Manitoba. We have adopted a policy of subsidising railways. We have been subsidising all sorts of railways. We have made it part of our policy to subsidise all kinds of railways, from interprovincial lines, or international lines, down to small microscopical lines three miles long, and the reason which has been given has been that these lines were necessary for the development of the settlement of the country. Let me quote here the reason given by the Minister of Railways in introducing one of the Bills with which we have become so familiar. In 1886 he said:

"We find, particularly in the Province of Quebec, that this policy was necessary to restrict the emigration of our own people to the United States. It has been thrown to us across the House by the Opposition that we ought to do something to retain these people in this country, that we ought to be doing something further than building great lines of railway from one end to the other of the country."

So he admits that something must be done to keep our own people within our own limits. Then he says:

"The time is gone by when the country could be opened up by means of turnpike roads. What turnpike roads were to this country forty years ago, railways are to-day, so that there is no possibility of keeping our own people at home except by opening up the country by railways, so as to give them facilities for inter-communication."

Here the Government admit that railways are a necessity for the development of the country. The people of Manitoba are of the same mind with the hon. gentleman. They also believe that railways are a necessity to develop the settlement of the country. But what is the Govern-

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ment doing? While at one end of the country they subsidise railways with the idea that they will develop the settlement of the country, in Manitoba they crush every effort which is made by the people of that country to build railways for that purpose. Instances are not wanting in history where a tyrannical Government has wrung from the people the earnings obtained by their labor, but it was left for the Government of Canada to do its best and exert its power to crush and to stifle the energy and labor of the people of a Province. I think this is one of the worst forms of misgovernment which has ever been known in any country. When we have come to this point, when rings and combinations can take advantage of the law to oppress the people, when monopolies are protected by the direct interference of the Government, using and abusing the constitutional power given to them, when individuals are made wealthier at the expense of the community, when taxation has been unduly increased, and when the resources upon which we depended to meet the liability are dissipated, when our country is unable to retain its own population, I say the time has come for gentlemen on the other side to cease their boasting and self-glorification, and for the people of this country to open their eyes and say that a new departure must be made from the policy which we have been following for the last ten years. Further than this to-day I will not go. I have said that a change has become absolutely necessary to the well-being of this country. Further than that I will not go. I will follow the almost invariable practice of late years of not moving any amendment to the Address, and will wait for a future day to propose what, on this side of the House, we consider is necessary in the present condition of the country.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. As the hon. gentleman has announced that no amendment is to be moved, I may congratulate him on following out what, I think, is a very laudable practice in that regard, and it will not be necessary for me to occupy the time of the House very long in respect to his remarks. I congratulate him upon taking the position he now occupies, and upon the ability which he has displayed in his speech, which, instructive as it is in some parts, shows that he is going to fill that position worthily; and I hope and I believe that he and the leader for the present of the ministerial majority will preserve such relations as to the public business of the country as is usual in England and has been generally in Canada. While offering my sincere congratulations to the hon. gentleman on his appointment to the position he holds, I can agree with him that it is to be regretted on many accounts that the absence of Mr. Blake—we may use his name in his absence—has caused the hon. gentleman opposite to be elevated to his present position. Mr. Blake is a distinguished man, he is a man who would be a credit to any country, from his ability, from his eloquence and from his devotion to public affairs. We have not had the good fortune to agree in our political course from the time he entered Parliament, but I have at all times been ready to pay a just tribute to his great abilities and to the earnestness with which he has paid attention to public matters. I can also more than agree with the hon. gentleman and with my hon. friends behind me, in the regret which they have expressed as to the approaching departure of the present representative of the Sovereign in this country. He has won the hearts of the people of Canada, he has acted the part of a constitutional Governor; he has taken great interest in the development of the country, in all its material aspects and in the encouragement of the arts and mechanical development of the country, but more especially in literature, and all that tends to elevate a nation more than mere material prosperity. I, as having been his adviser during the whole of the period he has been in Canada, could speak much more strongly; I could attest to his devotion to