

capped, hard and fast, by legislation of this kind, so that they cannot possibly acquire a small road, which, during the recess of Parliament, might be acquired cheaply and advantageously, is to place upon them fetters which will render it impossible to operate that great system advantageously. I say unhesitatingly that if the Government of the day can be entrusted with the administration of the great expenditures which we are called upon to make,—with the expenditures of the revenue of the country, which are closely approaching \$200,000,000,—it is not unreasonable to suppose that the Government should be entrusted with acquiring the small branch roads in the Maritime Provinces, which at the most would not exceed the amount limited by our legislation of last session. I think therefore it would be manifestly to the advantage of the country, and particularly to the advantage of the Intercolonial railway, that the Government should be given those powers.

(It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.)

AFTER RECESS.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend from Middlesex made reference to the absence of mention in the Speech from the Throne, of the Naval Bill, and expressed his disappointment at no pronouncement being made by the Government, on that very important subject. It is almost needless for me to say that no matter how desirable the Government may have thought the re-introduction of the Bill would have been, any effort which might be made in that direction would go for naught. It seems to me that the attitude taken by the Government is the only reasonable one that could be taken by reasonable men. The antagonism which was shown to the Naval Bill, during the last session of Parliament, not only in this House but particularly in the House of Commons, indicated that there could be only one result with reference to that very important measure, and that would be a second rejection by this Chamber. Last session, or immediately after last session, Canada suffered sufficient humiliation, not only amongst its own people, but in the Empire and throughout the civilized world, at the inability of the Government to pass the measure which was submitted to Parliament, and which I venture to say, in the estimation of reasonable men, was the most commendable measure that could be conceived by our Parliament.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

Hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It was a measure which bore the stamp of approval of the imperial authorities, and it was a measure which I venture to say received the approval of the loyal people of this Dominion.

Hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I can further say, with every degree of confidence, that never in the history of this Dominion has Canada suffered the humiliation which it did, when this body rejected that most important measure.

Hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Not only the Admiralty authorities, the Imperial Government, but the British public manifested the deepest anxiety on behalf of that measure. I suppose that never in the history of our Colonial Empire, did the Imperial Authorities manifest the same solicitude, and the same anxiety, never did the Imperial authorities place themselves in such a position of sympathetic accord with a Colonial Government as they did on that occasion, in appealing to the people of Canada that this measure should become law, not only on account of the practical assistance which such a measure would have given to the Imperial Government, but rather by reason of the moral forces and influence which it would have throughout all the Chancellories of Europe, in indicating that the Colonial Empire of Great Britain stood behind the Admiralty authorities of Great Britain as to a common system of naval defence.

Hon. MEMBERS—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The Government of the day, therefore, did not consider it advisable or statesmanlike, having suffered a defeat in this Chamber concerning that measure last session, that we should again be humiliated by a second rejection of the measure. It did not choose to place itself in the position of having the press and public of Germany, of having the unfriendly rivals of Great Britain throughout Europe, express their satisfaction that the government of Great Britain had received a second defeat in the greatest colony of the empire. If my hon. friend can for a moment conceive that we were prepared to place ourselves in that humiliating position, then I say that he cannot form a proper estimate of that proud sensitiveness which must and