

equitable administration of their affairs are among the subjects to which the Government has given its attention, and the House will be happy to learn that, following on the steps that have been adopted among the Indians themselves to discover their sentiments, a measure will be brought before it for the purpose of defining and regulating the civil and political rights of the red race. It is a work of Christian charity and philanthropy which, if it had been accomplished in time in other countries, would have prevented terrible wars and unheard of cruelties. The Government, up to this time, has looked at the question in a proper light, and its policy of conciliation and patience towards our brethren of the woods has been such as to attract them to us and render comparatively easy the definition of their rights and privileges.—We must expect a diminution of our revenue. The commercial prostration which has affected all Governments cannot but affect us too. But I am happy to see that by a wise reduction in the expenses of the several departments of the public service—which the whole country will applaud—the Government hopes to re-establish the equilibrium of our finances. Anyhow, we shall not be long before we are able to render an account of the exact state of things; and it is probable that in a few days the Hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. member for Cumberland will have thrown across the Chamber a sufficient quantity of figures, that members of this House who, like myself, are not financiers, may not find themselves astray more than *three millions*.—The Province of Manitoba has attracted the attention of the Government in respect to its financial position. Whatever the nature of its wants and demands may be, we should, in any case, felicitate it on the manner, eminently practical, in which it has been able, before presenting its case to us, to reduce its ordinary expenses by the suppression of a part of its administrative machinery. The abolition of its Legislative Council is, under the circumstances actually existing, an act of the highest prudence and, at the same time, of the purest abnegation. To save one of its diseased arms it

has courageously amputated the other, and this latter has lent itself to the operation in the most gracious manner possible. Here is a good commencement, and one which permits us to take a favorable view of the case of Manitoba. I know a certain large Province where a similar amputation would be at the present moment impossible. It would prefer to lose the Federal subsidy rather than sacrifice the right arm of the local constitution, the immortal Legislative Council, the deliberations of which are the delight of the ancient capital. So let us speak of it no longer, that impotent arm will remain bandaged yet a long while, and will not be cut off if that depends on itself.—The House eagerly awaits the correspondence, reports and other documents relative to the construction of the Pacific Railway which are promised it. The Speech from the Throne does not announce to us any change in the policy of the Government in reference to this enterprise. I am glad, for my part, and I would say to the Government: continue to follow the tactics of Fabius, and take the council of the wise *Festinan Lente!* The other subjects which are mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, and which I have not touched, as I must keep myself within due limits, are of great importance, and the measures in connection with them will doubtless be pressed forward with all the diligence that the want of complete legislation in their regard warrants. In concluding, His Excellency hopes that wisdom and moderation will preside over our deliberations. Mr. Speaker, we will not disappoint that expectation. There are in this Chamber many conflicting principles, and, unfortunately, yet more prejudice in full ebullition. It cannot be otherwise in a House issuing from the popular will of seven distinct Provinces, which but a short while since had no common tie, and little or no points of resemblance with each other. But we have nothing to fear in the matter of excess of language, dangerous recriminations or appeals to passion in a Chamber such as ours, which has already shewn in the past so much moderation in its acts, and so much wisdom in the settlement of questions the most difficult. I thank

Mr. TASCHEREAU.