

his opinion, upon the amount of energy devoted to the carrying out of that great project, would in a great measure depend the future prosperity of the Dominion. He considered it to be the duty of the Government to use every means in its power to have every railway throughout the Dominion built by private enterprise. With reference to the construction of the Georgian and Lake Nipissing railways, he should like hon. gentlemen to shew him the necessity for the construction of railroads through any portion of country where civilization did not exist, and where no inhabitants were to be found, except Indians. He saw no necessity for frittering away the resources of the country, with financial responsibilities involving \$7,000,000—with our North-West resources to be developed. Where he would ask, was the hope of being prepared for the responsibilities referred to, if this expenditure for what appeared to be unnecessary and inexpedient was to take place? His remarks might be considered tiresome to the House, and if such were the case he would most sincerely apologize.

HON. MR. READ did not expect much from the Speech from the Throne, consequently he was not, like his hon. friend from Kingston, disappointed; but he felt for His Excellency when such an apology for a speech was put into his mouth. After referring to several paragraphs as of minor importance, he denounced the proposition to build the Georgian Bay Branch of the Pacific Railway as useless. Already there were two railways running into Georgian Bay, and three other roads terminating on Lake Huron; and the Branch proposed to be built, would form no portion of the Pacific Railway proper, and should not therefore be built. Parliament would do very wrong in sanctioning the construction of so useless a piece of road where no one lived, and through a part of the country not likely to be inhabited for years to come. If the construction of that 85 miles of useless road from Georgian Bay to Lake Nipissing was all, that of itself was monstrous, but when we are called upon to build or materially assist in the construction of hundreds of miles of road leading from this city to

Nipissing, through a comparative wilderness, he hoped such a scheme would meet its deserved fate and be defeated; while he fully concurred in building the Pacific road proper, and would do all in his power to further it at the very earliest moment. A vast continent had been almost given to us, and it is our duty to improve it, and not keep it a closed preserve as in years gone by, which can only be done by building a railroad its entire length as soon as our circumstances will admit. On referring to the financial state of the country, he claimed that the statements he made last session, that there was no occasion for increased taxation, had turned out correct, as the Public Accounts would prove. Not only was there a surplus instead of a large deficiency, as the Finance Minister had stated, but he claimed that the steady progress of the country would have given the Finance Minister what he demanded, \$24,500,000, nearly two millions more than the last Government estimates. To prove his figures, he quoted from the returns as furnished by the *Gazette*, that not only was there a surplus last year, but that for the first half of the year the revenue had reached to over \$13,000,000, out of \$24,500,000 appropriated by Parliament. He then went on to say that the Senate had failed in its duty to the country, in not resisting the tariff of last year, as it was not only vicious but unnecessary and unpatriotic, framed with a view to make it appear that the late Government had been extravagant and running the country into debt, which the facts proved not to be correct. He considered the Finance Minister greatly to blame in making such an untrue statement, thereby injuring the financial position of the country at a time when we had an ambassador at Washington negotiating a Reciprocity Treaty, and when to carry on our great public works we were making a loan in England. Had his statement been allowed to go uncontradicted, the consequences might have been disastrous, but thanks to a patriotic Canadian in England his statement of the finances of this country were not only disputed but proved to be incorrect. He then went on to criticise the action of the Government last Session in in-