

opposite, after having seven year's surveys, to which the seconder of the Address has significantly alluded, and after having the whole results of the summer's surveys, ought to be now enabled—unless there are special reasons to the contrary—to determine as to what the proper route is. "Man never is, but always to be, blessed," and we will be blessed by-and-by; and we will hope that some time in the early part of the Session the Government will be able to state what route has been determined on. One thing is clear: that the Government has determined that the Yellow-Head Pass is the pass through which the railway will go. I trust the Government will, at an early day, lay on the table all the surveys and reports they have received in order to justify that final conclusion. The 10th paragraph is a very remarkable one, and the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) dwelt upon it with great unction. The paragraph reads:

"That we receive with much pleasure His Excellency's congratulations on the abundant harvest reaped in all quarters of the Dominion, and that under this and other influences there has been some improvement in the Revenue returns, thus indicating, as we trust with His Excellency, that the commercial depression that afflicted Canada in common with other countries, is passing away."

I do not hear the passing bell. I think the depression still exists. If hon. gentlemen will look at any of the evidences that are patent before them, I think they must agree with us that the depression exists still. Look at the city of Montreal, at the state of the lumber trade in Ottawa, at the number of insolvencies here compared with the number in the United States; look at all or any of the evidences, and you will see we are called upon to be most desperate believers to believe that the depression is passing away. I would be glad if I could agree with that opinion; I would be happy to think that our abundant harvest or any other cause would remove the commercial depression, or was likely to remove it. The members of the Government are very modest. They claim no merits for removing it themselves. The fly-on-the-wheel policy still exists. The Government still feel that they must trust to the harvest, trust to atmospheric influ-

ences, trust to everything but statesmanlike conduct and administration. A feeling exists in the country that the Government might have, if only at first by an expression of sympathy, taken a step in the direction of assisting our industries and manufactures. If they had taken some such step, some confidence might have been placed in them. But there is a great feeling of want of confidence in the Government. Even with the abundant harvest, there is a want of confidence in their administrative power and in their faculty for legislating. The bill of fare shows what they have to submit. We are to have an improved system of auditing accounts. That is a very important thing in its way. Then we are to have greater facilities for reaching the North-West, a Homestead Law in the North-West and a registration of titles for the North-West. These are very well in their way, and I dare say to the inhabitants of Manitoba of some little use. We are to have an Independence of Parliament Act. These Independence of Parliament Acts require a great deal of legislation. And what is the first thing we shall have to consider in securing the independence of Parliament? The first thing will be to secure the electors of this country against the undue influence of the Crown; against the undue influence of Ministers of the Crown behind the back of the Crown. It is of more importance that we should put an end to that system of wholesale corruption and intimidation which has been used, I do not hesitate to say, by the present Government, than to prevent a single instance of bribery by a single candidate at a single election. I do not hesitate to say that there has been a system of Government influence used by the present Government for carrying elections which has been unheard of before in this country, and since the days of Walpole has never been heard of in England. Look, for instance, at the O'Donoghue case. And I call the attention of the House to it, not only with reference to the independence of Parliament, but with reference to the responsibility of Ministers to Parliament. Hon. gentlemen have charged us with acting as prerogative men, with over-riding the authority of