

on the spot to watch these negotiations. The hon. gentleman knows well from the experience he has had in the Government that it is impossible by correspondence to secure that watchfulness which is necessary to guard our interests in matters of this kind.

MR. MACKENZIE: Is he to have plenary power?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: No, we won't provide that his decision is to be final. The hon. gentleman says that we objected very much to the appointment of Mr. Jenkins. We objected for several reasons. In the first place as Agent-General he was merely to look after the emigration interest, as I understood at that time; certainly no other powers were specified here in the House, or in any resolution or step taken by the Government opposite. He was merely what Mr. Annand is now, a general agent. We objected to the increase of salary; and we objected especially to the selection of Mr. Jenkins,—a most estimable person in every way, but who was the last who ought to have been chosen for the post,—because he had placed himself in personal hostility to the Government of the day in England, and the agent of the Canadian Government should be a greater *persona*, a person acceptable to the Government of the day with whom he has every-day transactions. The hon. gentleman is in a very facetious mood notwithstanding the depression that exists in the country; and one reason, perhaps, why he is so happy is the success of his friends at the local elections in Ontario. He says that the Local Government was sustained by two to one. Well, it cannot be in consequence of any reaction against the National Policy that Mr. Mowat obtained his majority, because we have had a great number of elections for this House; we have had eight or nine or more for this House. The Government have not lost one seat that they held before, and they have won three that they had not at the time of the General Election.

MR. MACKENZIE: Where are they—in Ontario?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: The hon. gentleman evidently thought of no other Province, he always considers that the Dominion and Ontario are the same thing. It is quite clear that there is no re-action on the National Policy. We

have had some elections in Ontario, and we have held our own there—we have not lost one, and we have gained three in the Dominion. We know that wherever there is a commercial depression it takes a political direction, and the hon. gentleman found, and complained when he was in the Government, that the failure of the crops and everything else was put upon the Government. But every Government must suffer from that. Wherever there is any discontent it takes a political direction and the Government of the day suffers. If there was a feeling that this country was suffering from the continuance of the National Policy, if there was a re-action against the National Policy, surely in some one of these constituencies there would have been an assertion of that fact, an evidence of the re-action by the defeat of the supporter of the National Policy. What, then, are we to consider was the cause of Mr. Mowat's success? The cause is this: the people of Ontario knew that the National Policy was safe in our hands and that they might safely act with regard to local affairs as they pleased. It is idle, it is folly, to suppose that there is a re-action in the country against the National Policy. I think every candid man will admit that the country is rising, slowly perhaps, but certainly, from the Slough of Despond into which it has sunk for the last five years. At the end of another year we will see that the policy which has now proved so efficient in its commencement will have developed greater strength and vigour.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

### After Recess.

MR. BUNSTER: I do not agree with some hon. gentlemen who have said the Address before us goes too far in certain respects, as, I think it does not go far enough. I am grieved that the Government have not devoted more consideration to the Pacific Province. The country agreed to build a railroad from Nanaimo to Esquimaux, and, at the beginning, the British Columbia Government reserved twenty miles of land on each side of the route. They complied with their obligation, much to the detriment of the Vancouver Island population, as settlement was retarded in consequence. I am

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.