

thing else, what an enormous undertaking it is! What processes must be put in force for the purpose of trying to carry it out successfully; what contracts to be made; what constructions to be undertaken; what arrangements for shipments here, arrangements for supplies, and a thousand other things a company of that kind has to commence, in order to begin such a gigantic operation in a sufficiently early period next spring to assure the country that the season of 1881 will be one which will mark progress in this enormous undertaking. These are the considerations which have induced the Government to summon Parliament so early. It will be the most important season of any that will occur during the progress of the work, because a great deal will turn upon the experiences of the first bands of emigrants who enter the country, and whose reports will influence all who follow the pioneer band to this country. These are the reasons which induced the Government to summon Parliament, and every business man on either side of the House will say that they are sufficient to justify the Government in having asked Parliament to come together at what some may consider an inconvenient period, (though I hope it will not prove so to many,) to give their assistance to the Government in considering the measures which will be submitted to Parliament. My hon. friend criticized the Government because they did not take the public into their confidence. It seems to me that the Government have taken the right course. They have seized the earliest opportunity to take the representatives of the people into their confidence. It is through Parliament that the Government has to deal with the people of the country. It would not have been becoming to have allowed a matter of such importance to go to the public through the press before submitting it to Parliament, especially when Parliament has been summoned as quickly as possible for the special purpose of hearing and considering the details of the contract. It did not seem to the Government that it would have been proper to forestall the deliberations of Parliament and to give this information to the press in the manner that the hon. gentleman has suggested. 1

*Hon. Sir Alex. Campbell.*

think both Houses of Parliament will see that in pursuing that course the Government have treated them with proper respect. The hon. gentleman criticized that paragraph which alludes to the progress made in the construction of the railway in the North-West, and says that in the Speech of last year the 100 miles to be constructed west of Winnipeg were referred to, and that the section was to have been completed "in a short time," and he seems to think that it is not yet built; but the railway has been built as far as Portage la Prairie, and the locomotive is likely to run over the whole section to which he refers during the present month, so that my hon. friend has not full information on that subject. He attributes the delay to the work having been undertaken by the Government. The truth is, the delay was due to the fact that the work was undertaken by a contractor and not carried out by him. The contractor (Mr. Ryan, I believe), for the first 100 miles west of Winnipeg, met with great difficulties. It was a wet season. He was without resources to carry on his contract, and the Government, after some delay, took it out of his hands. It was only in that way that the Government assumed the work. The section will be completed during the course of the month. My hon. friend criticizes the Commission for the Civil Service, and the evidence which is being taken before that Commission, and thinks that the members of the Government might themselves have arrived at better conclusions than the Commission. It is a difficult matter for members of the Government to consider such a subject, and to devote to it the necessary time and attention, and there is this advantage attending the Commission—you are enabled to bring to the consideration of the subject minds outside of the Government, which is a very valuable thing. We have on the Commission a gentleman who has been long connected with commerce in Ontario, and who has had large experience in the employment of men, and is, therefore, fit to form an opinion on the question of the Civil Service. We have also a gentleman connected with banking in Quebec, who has had large experience in the employment of men. These two gentlemen, therefore,