

that it was so important a scheme, nor, I suppose, did he assume that it was one in which British Columbia took such deep interest. It appears, however, that after his personal experience there he has come to a different conclusion, and as the negotiator on behalf of the Administration, has given material assistance for having the railway on the Island constructed.

We are told that we shall be called on to consider some amendments in the North-West Territories Act. Well, I confess the session would scarcely be like a session if we had not the North West Act before us, as I do not remember any one year in which we have not had a North-West Act to discuss. I trust, however, that it will now be framed in that liberal spirit for which many hon. gentlemen in this chamber have contended the Government are to be commended—although they did it at so late a period—for opening to actual settlers the land along the mile-belt. Any one travelling over the railways through the North-West would be painfully struck by the utter absence of any population that was visible from the cars, but I trust—in fact I feel confident—that the policy now adopted, even though it is a late policy, will be duly appreciated by the people who are yet to settle in that country. The land on either side of the railway will certainly be very much improved in appearance by being settled, so that one travelling through it may look out on cultivated farms where, at present, the wild grass grows. One may now go for ten, fifteen or twenty miles by the railway across the prairies and not see a vestige of civilization,—not a hamlet, no crops, not even the beginning of a settlement. Such an outlook must have had a very damaging effect upon those people who, for the first time, were venturing into that country, as it would lead them to believe that it was entirely unsettled; but in many localities, if one were to go two or three miles distant from the railway, on either side, he would find thriving farms and actual settlements.

We are told that the education of the Indians is going on apace; well, there are so many educators up in that country, that we should be glad to learn of some results having followed from their appointment. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Indians, now that their ordinary mode of living has been taken from them

by the settlement of that country and the extinction of the buffalo, will adopt the habits of the white man, and become cultivators of the soil.

We are promised a franchise bill, which I suppose will be based somewhat upon the principles of the franchise bill of last year.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL.—Hear, hear!

HON. MR. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman says "hear, hear!" but I had hoped that, in the meantime, the Government had reconsidered the question, and left well enough alone. It seems to me that the franchise of the country could be very much better exercised, by leaving it to the local legislatures to adopt their own basis. Certainly we shall add to the expense enormously by adopting the franchise, applicable only to the election of members for the House of Commons, and many, myself among the number, will view somewhat suspiciously any proceeding which will give the Government the power of nominating the gentleman who shall have the right to revise the voters' list. He is not likely to be a gentleman who is other than in sympathy with the administration of the day, therefore I think it is a very dangerous power to place in the hands of any one who is not thoroughly impartial. It is scarcely to be expected that a revising barrister, appointed by the Government, and appointed no doubt on account of his fealty and allegiance to the Government, will take other than a partial view, favorable to his friends, in the revising of the voters' list. I should view it, particularly if it were coming before an election, very much as I did the re-arranging of the constituencies before the last election, by which they were so cut up and divided as to satisfy the exigencies of the friends of the Administration.

We are also promised a factory bill, and let us hope that the details of the bill will be such as will protect, at all events, the juvenile labor in our factories. We all know that children are largely employed,—some of them of very tender years, and it is highly important, in making provision for the protection of those who are to work in factories, that we should limit the age and hours of labor. I trust the bill