

has always been found impossible to prevent the whites from encroaching upon the reserves ; and from their difficulties with the Indians have arisen national wars with the tribes. I quite expected that my hon. friend would have adverted, as he has done, to the subject of the prevailing depression, but I think the country, if not the House, will concur in the views expressed by the hon. gentleman who moved the Address, that the depression is really owing to causes over which the Government has little or no control. Among the causes that he mentioned as leading ones, were the stagnation in the lumber trade, and the inability of other nations to buy our products. Another was, as he rightly described it, the extravagance which prevailed in former years of inflation, and the tendency of our people to buy more than they were really justified in purchasing, merchants importing larger stocks than people were willing to buy, and forcing them off on long credits, and inflating trade in an unwarrantable degree. Some hon. gentlemen would lead the House to believe that the Government, by some legislative action, could have stimulated the trade of the country and increased our wealth. I fail to see how any legislation could have given vitality to any special trade without injury to other interests ; and if we went into any species of legislation by which every trade would be subsidized by the Government, what would be the result? We would make Canada a much more expensive place to live in than at present. Certainly, a period of depression is no time to try experiments in our fiscal policy. We see that the United States is suffering more than Canada. I do not hesitate to say that if the figures and facts were gone into that it could be satisfactorily proved. From my reading of that question during the past year or two, I have come to the conclusion, that the suffering is much greater in the over-protected United States than in Canada—that there is a far greater number of persons, according to population, out of employment there than here. As I said on a former occasion in this Chamber, if there had been many factories here, there would have been a larger number of operatives thrown out of employment at a time when they could find no other work. Take, for instance, the boot and shoe industry, which has been very successful in this country. I think the amount of

capital invested in that industry is \$15,000,000, and yet, though the importations of boots and shoes have been very small, not over \$300,000 per annum, there have been failures in that trade, and why? Because the purchasing power of the community was exhausted ; because they chose to manufacture more than the people could consume. That would have been the result in every other trade. If other countries were willing to purchase our goods, there would then be some reason for stimulating trade of that sort, but we know very well the nation with which we have the largest trade, the United States, has built a wall around itself, and will buy from us nothing that they can get at home. The hon. gentleman has made some slight allusion to the act which has more particular reference to another Chamber, and he thinks that we ought to have prepared legislation of that kind before. I might say the same of the Government of which the hon. gentleman was a member. If he will look back into the history of the last eight or ten years, he will find that gentlemen who supported his Administration, and some who were in it, were in the habit of violating the Independence of Parliament Act, as frequently, if not oftener, than the friends of this Government. It has grown up in this country, and for years has been utterly ignored. It is necessary in the future that the independence of the representatives of the people shall be secured as far as legislation will permit it.

Hon. Mr. ALEXANDER—I do not propose to discuss any of the subjects or questions referred to in the Speech from the Throne, not any one of which can be said to be of very great significance. That Speech, which is certainly one of unusual length, cannot but be disappointing to the country ; for there is not one word in it to indicate that the Government realize to themselves the serious, and grave position, into which the trade, and industries, of the country have been drifting. No reference is made to the wide-spread anxieties, which are at this moment felt and expressed in every trade centre of the Dominion. The Speech would almost breathe the impress that what our rulers chiefly care about, is that they should be enabled, by the Revenue, or borrowing powers, to meet our public obligations. Is there no responsibility resting upon the