

want is a small amount of justice from this country. We do not demand all our rights, but we do look for a portion. The reference in the speech from the Throne to the Pacific Railway is very brief. And we can well imagine the contents of the papers promised to be sent down on the subject. We will be told that the Government could not fulfil its obligations to British Columbia, in consequence of which an offer was made to that Province and declined. If hon. gentlemen would like to know why these obligations could not be fulfilled, I can tell them the reason is the action of this House last session, in refusing to do a simple act of justice to one of the weakest Provinces in the Dominion. A former Administration entered into a bargain with us which was objected to by the Opposition of the day as being more of a burden than the country could sustain. That Opposition—now the gentlemen who compose the Government—on coming into office, lost no time in obtaining a modification and relaxation of the original bargain, more in keeping (according to their views) with the resources of the country; and when an effort is made to carry into effect one of the conditions of the modified bargain, a majority of this House prevent its being done—thereby inflicting a deep injury on the Province—destroying all confidence, and causing much ill feeling and discontent. The action of the House reflects no credit on the honour of this country, retards, and interferes with all our industries, and a reaction is now being felt. Surely a Government that did all in its power to relieve the country of some of its burdens, could fairly be entrusted with spending money in our Province. There would be no danger of our getting too much. I do hope that when the affairs of our Province come again before this House, it will not withhold justice. It is not our wish to overtax or burden this country, in doing us justice, such a thing not being necessary. The Pacific Railway is too commonly looked upon as a British Columbia affair, and it has been stated that the money spent in that Province on construction would be a direct benefit to its present population. Nothing can be more erroneous than such a view. No doubt we expect benefits, but the work must be looked upon in its true character, as a great national undertaking. Although we are anxious for its commencement, yet a very small percentage on the outlay would go into the pockets of the people in the Province.

Hon. Mr. TRUDEL—This is not an occasion for us to express sentiments hostile to the policy propounded by the Government. In other words, it is not an occasion to make war on the Administration entrusted with the affairs of the country. I believe that the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, if I understand constitutional usages right, is an opportunity afforded to members of both Houses to consider the policy of the Government and the country. There is much to be said, on the various matters mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, but it is to be regretted that none of them are such as we might consider of vital importance to the country. I will not follow the Speech paragraph by paragraph, or enumerate all the reflections it might inspire. I will not for instance speak of the finances of the country, though I am not of the opinion that their present state is due simply to the bad state of business. It seems to me obvious that the existing financial depression is due in a certain measure to the bad policy of the Government. I believe that the deficit which is apparent in our revenue is due to certain expenses, above all, in connection with an enterprise which we in the Province of Quebec consider absurd and useless, from a general point of view, to the interests of the Dominion, at least considering the way in which it is executed and its location, which make of it a merely local road. I cannot forget this railroad, which has cost a considerable sum, and will again be the subject of considerable expenditure, has been run in such a way as to benefit Ontario at the expense of Quebec. No doubt the great depression in the industries of Montreal has been affected although not altogether by the tariff. Thus I cannot share the opinion of those who say that the Administration of the country has nothing to do with this deplorable condition of affairs. I cannot forget that the industries which employed twelve thousand workmen in the city of Montreal are altogether ruined, not by the natural course of business, but by the unjust competition of American manufactures, which is foolishly allowed by an insufficiently protective tariff. Allusion has been made by an hon. member not only to the trip of His Excellency and the benefits which the Dominion ought to draw from the attitude taken by His Excellency and the able manner in which he was able to bring out the advantages which our country offers to emi-