

fail, not only to be exceedingly useful and interesting to this Senate, but also to the country. With respect to the clause in the resolutions referring to the Pacific Railway, I must seize this, the first, opportunity afforded me, to express my strong condemnation of the expenditure that is being made on the section of the railway between the head of Lake Superior and Red River. It is a tract of country which we all know to be inhospitable, without cultivable lands, to any extent, to attract the settler, and when the railway is completed the territory will simply be passed over by those who avail themselves of that route. How any government can defend themselves before the people of this country for undertaking, in the present circumstances of the Dominion, an expenditure in that region that cannot fall short of twenty millions of dollars, is more than I can understand. The expenditure through that country can neither be productive nor reproductive. I merely touch on this question at present, because I do not consider it the proper occasion to go into it in detail, but I must raise my voice on this first opportunity against the expenditure. I think the Speech from the Throne—I say it with great humility—should always give the people some means of judging of the prosperity of the country, but I defy any honorable gentleman to learn from this speech whether the country is in a prosperous condition or not. The usage that prevails in England is, if there is anything of more than ordinary interest to the country to call public attention to it in the Queen's Speech, be it favorable or unfavorable. If anything important is occurring in India or any of the colonies, it is referred to in the Speech. In Canada, where Parliament, representing, as it does, Provinces, some of them very remote from others, we should receive some idea from the Government, through the Speech, of what is doing in each of the Provinces, and so be able to judge of the material progress of the whole Dominion, and also of the several Provinces. But we can discover nothing of this kind from the Speech that has been addressed to us from the Throne. Allusion is made to the falling off in revenue through diminished imports, but no reason is given for diminished imports, and a stranger reading the speech might believe that it was in consequence of the increase of manufactures in this country. No inhabitant of this country would fall into such an error, but a stranger might, as there is nothing to direct him to any other conclusion. It is well known to many honorable gentlemen that

the crop in Ontario last year was an exceedingly deficient one, so deficient that provender is now actually being imported into Ontario for the feeding of farmers' stock.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Is that not a matter of sufficient importance to find a place in the Speech from the Throne? It is known that all the great industries of the country, especially those in Ontario and Quebec, are languishing, and many of them are extinct. Is that not a matter that should have found a place in the Speech, and should not sympathy and encouragement have been expressed? Is it possible that the Government are not aware of those facts? Then we have no idea of the condition of industries in British Columbia. We are told nothing of the progress being made in the settlement of Manitoba. We are aware that a pestilence has prevailed among some of the new settlements of strangers who have been settled in the Nor'-West; is that not a matter worthy of mention in the speech? Would not a few gracious words uttered from the Throne have carried some consolation to those who have suffered the loss of those nearest and dearest to them in a strange land? Would it not have been a matter of gratification to those strangers had the head of the Government and the Parliament expressed sympathy for them in their affliction? It cannot be possible that the Government are ignorant of these things. Is it possible that they are indifferent to them, ignorant they cannot be! I can refer with great pleasure to the Centennial exhibition. I visited it, and I must say I felt much pride and gratification at the high place my country took on that occasion. Much has been said about the inefficiency of the Canadian Commissioners, but as far as I had an opportunity of judging, everything had been done that could have been done to ensure the success of our exhibitors. Much had been done, of course, by the exhibitors themselves, but I am quite sure the Commissioners aided as far as it was in their power to do so. They had great difficulties to contend with.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—There is very little new legislation invited in the Speech from the Throne. From anything we can gather from it there will be no legislation that might not be deferred without disadvantage to the country for years to come. The truth is that Parliament has been assembled, so far as the Government is concerned, judging from the Speech, simply to vote the supplies. It is a very ex-