

any one. Notwithstanding the delay, if we are to have that road, it will be received with the greatest satisfaction. It is to be regretted, that the first opening of the road was not one that would give us direct communication with the outer world, but I suppose in the course of a year, we will have a road from Winnipeg to Fisher's Landing, which we have now to travel by stage. The effect of it will be—and it will very likely last for some years—that the trade, instead of coming into the bosom of the Dominion, will flow into Minnesota and other Western States. The course of trade is like the course of a stream, when once it has taken a particular direction, it is not easy to change it. The people of Manitoba will be accommodated, but the Dominion will not have any profit from the immense amount of money which has been expended, and which is to be expended, until direct communication is opened to Lake Superior. In common with the rest of the Dominion, I am proud to be able to state to this honorable House, that the Province which I have the honor to represent, has not to complain of bad crops. Last year we had good crops, but what will be the profit on them to meet our obligations? We have no outlet for our grain, and our wheat has been sold at fifty cents per bushel. We have an obligation which we have contracted with the Government. At the time when the country was starving, after the crops were destroyed by the grasshoppers, the Government came nobly to our assistance. They gave us seed wheat and provisions. Now the people are called upon to pay for these same things, which were accepted as a loan, and which they expected they would have to pay for at no distant day. But the difficulty is this: the railroad is not built, and we are obliged to give at least four bushels of wheat for each bushel we received two years ago. This is not altogether the fault of the Government, but if the money granted for railway purposes had been expended a little sooner, we would have had a chance of sending our grains to the best market. No doubt facilities will be given for reaching the North-West Territories, but I suppose they will be limited to the completion of the surveys. I don't expect, for my part, to see the road built, as I don't think it is the serious intention of the Government to extend the Pacific

Railway beyond the Red River. Immense sums of money have been expended for the surveys of a line which will be of no benefit. If the different sums, or part of them, which have been expended for those surveys had been applied to the location of some railway communication in the Province, my opinion is—and it is the opinion of the people of Manitoba—that at the present time the Province would have been run through by railways from north to south, and east to west. I see with pleasure and satisfaction, that it is the intention of the Government to terminate the difficulties in relation to the liquor traffic. I know there has been misunderstanding between the different Provinces and the Dominion Government, and it is well that we should know where the responsibility rests, with reference to the traffic in liquors. At the present time, while so much is being done in every Province to establish temperance principles, the Government cannot do too much to favor the friends of temperance in every way that they possibly can. It appears that we will not be called upon during the present Session to do anything except the ordinary work assigned to the legislature on such occasions. Sometimes I feel that there is more than one Sitting Bull in the way; certainly there are many responsibilities on every side, but I have no doubt we will find in the members who are now charged with the fate of the Dominion, the necessary wisdom to administer the public affairs of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL.—The occasions have been so very few and far between when I have been able to agree with the Government, in their policy, that I should be wanting in my duty if I did not express my satisfaction with that clause in the Speech which announces that it is the intention of the Government to give some attention to the liquor-traffic question. What may have led to this—whether the late decision of the Supreme Court, or whether it is that the voice of 500,000 people, petitioning for relief, has at last reached the ears of the Government, or whether it is the near approach of that day when they shall be called to give an account of their stewardship to constituencies who are interested in having this question settled, I care not; I am satisfied with the simple fact that the Government have at last recognized the fact that this

*Hon. Mr. Girard.*