

might be necessary to provide them with copies of those Acts. So much for the congratulatory portion of the Speech. The large space occupied by congratulations, instead of being a fit subject of attack, spoke well, he thought, for the different measures which had been formerly passed; moreover, as, throughout the whole Speech, there was no mention made of the necessity for amendment to any of those measures. (Hear, hear.) This fact was also a confirmation of the wisdom of having only one Chamber, and he hoped that in that respect and in the interests of economy our sister Provinces would be induced by the successes of this Province to follow its example. With several of the measures proposed he had not a very intimate acquaintance. He supposed the paucity of these would form a subject of attack by the Opposition. It was not to be expected that it was the duty of a Ministry to devise legislation simply to give the House something to do, but rather to meet the demands of the country when the country made those demands known. And if our laws were so complete and effective that there was no demand for legislation, they were, he certainly thought, to be congratulated. He was very glad to see that a measure was promised for the employment of prison labour outside of the gaol walls. With this provision, many of our gaols might become more efficient than they were at present, as it would meet the case of that large class of idlers who regarded gaols as desirable places for free board and winter residence rather than as places of punishment. On the law regarding the relations between landlords and tenants the legal members of the House would be more competent to form an opinion than himself. He presumed that it had some reference to the hardships that often occurred by the distress of the property of poor people for rent, a matter which was well worthy of careful consideration at the hands of the House. A Civil Service Act was also promised, in the preparation of which the greatest care was necessary. One of the evils of the present system was the appointment of officials in consequence of recommendations from political motives, and this evil would have to be met, so that the Government might be relieved from the difficulties connected with it. The officials themselves would also, he supposed, be benefitted, the most worthy being given the preference. Some surprise was no doubt felt that there was no mention of the question of tax exemptions in the Speech. He supposed, however, that the Government considered this question to be one which would be more properly dealt with by the House as a public measure. He did not think public opinion was in accord on that question. Although there appeared to be unanimity among the press of this city with regard to it, they did not represent the feeling in the out-lying portions of the Province. For his own part, he could not see the justice of exempting official incomes from taxation, whether Dominion or Provincial. There was, too, a large proportion of real estate which should bear its share of municipal taxation. Those who advocated the entire abolition of taxes occupied the most logical ground; but logic must sometimes give way to public sentiment, which seemed to be against the taxation of houses of worship and public buildings. He should like to see a measure bearing on this question introduced by some independent member, and he should be prepared to give any measure providing for the abolition of many existing exemptions his hearty support. There was one clause in the Assessment Act—that relating to the reduction of assessment on personal property in consequence of debt—which he thought should be repealed. In fact, there seemed to be ground for a thorough revisal of the basis of municipal taxation. The last paragraph in the Address contained an admonition which should not be overlooked. It was patent to all that political warfare in this country was becoming day by day more rancorous and personal. This was much to be regretted, and was regretted, he thought, by the great bulk of our people. In the discussions that took place outside of the House during the past summer there had not been so many

personalities indulged in with respect to the Local Government as with respect to the Dominion Government. In saying that, he believed he was expressing a compliment to the members on both sides of the House. There was an impression that the last session of this House, and of the House at Ottawa, which preceded the general election would be more rancorous than previous ones. He hoped such would not be the case. Let this Province, the first in wealth, prosperity, and intelligence, set an example to the other Provinces in confederation. Let the members of this House show, by the absence of political feeling, that they were actuated by true patriotism, and he was sure that the party that most showed this spirit would most receive the support of the electors of the country. (Cheers.)

Mr. LANE, in rising to second the motion just made, said he did so with a good deal of diffidence, feeling that there were others who might more fitly than he have been selected to perform that duty. However, the very full manner in which the mover had dealt with the Address left little for him to do. After expressing his continued confidence in the wisdom of the legislation and administration of the Government, he went on to say that he would not discuss every subject mentioned in the Speech paragraph by paragraph, but would content himself with taking up some of them which had been most lightly touched upon by the mover. With regard to the additional accommodation required by those unfortunate people referred to in the Speech, he wished to say that it was no credit to a civilized country that lunatics should have to be sent to our gaols like common prisoners, instead of the asylums where they could be properly treated and if possible cured. Our gaols were intended not for these unfortunates, but the vicious. (Hear, hear.) He was glad that the Government were about to deal with that matter; and he hoped—as he believed—that they would deal with it so efficiently and thoroughly that no further accommodation would require to be provided for many years to come. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the promised provision for the employment of prisoners outside the prison wards, as had been justly said by the mover of the Address, it was conceived no great hardship for a criminal to be sent to gaol, where he was well fed and clothed, especially when there were found members on the floor of the House who almost went the length of justifying him in resisting the authority necessarily imposed by the keepers of the prison. (Hear, hear.) But if criminals were obliged to go out in the streets and roads, and in a manner to proclaim to the world their own disgrace, the punishment would be very much greater, and it would be found that there would be little or no room for fault-finding in Parliament or elsewhere, because the manner and the extent of the punishment would be patent to the public. (Hear, hear.) He was strongly of opinion that we were getting to look upon crime too lightly. A man committed a crime; he remained in prison or penitentiary perhaps for two or three years; at the end of that time, through the mawkish sentimentality which was so prevalent on this subject, petitions in his favour were got up, and the result often was that the term of his sentence was reduced by one-half, though those who best knew the man, and the circumstances attending his crime, thought the original penalty too small. (Hear, hear.) He believed that some such measure as the one promised in the Speech would relieve the community to a large extent of the burden which the clauses referred to had heretofore proved. He wished to say a few words of the law with regard to landlord and tenant. That law, as it stood at present, was an anomaly in our legislation. In the case of any other debt the debtor could only be sued by a regular legal process, and he could see no reason why a landlord should have the power to issue a warrant and seize everything which his tenant possessed. All creditors should in some degree be placed on an equal footing in the eye of the law; and there was no reason why a landlord should have the