

shed. Canadians had long maintained, and continued to maintain, posts on the Abbitibi, the Albany, and other rivers to the north of it, and it could not be shown that they ever entertained any idea of receding from these posts or from their settlements on the Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan still further to the north. Why, then, assert that both countries seem to have acquiesced in the idea, for after all it was only an idea, and rather a wild one at that. He (Mr. Dawson) was not prepared to say that a case might not be made out for the height of land line, if we were to be guided alone by the charter. But the validity of the charter had never been fully established. All he contended was that a good case had not been made out by Mr. Ramsay. There were weak points, too, in his report regarding the early discoveries of Hudson's Bay and the first advent of the traders to that region. The document was, no doubt, hastily got up and the subject imperfectly understood by its author. Taking the matter as it now stood, the case of Ontario was very fully set forth in the reports before the House. The matter was in the hands of arbitrators, eminent alike from their position and ability, and we must patiently abide the result. It was highly important to Ontario that she should possess the country drained by the waters of Rainy River and the Winnipeg, for there were forests there which would become very valuable, from the fact that wide regions to the west were without timber. On the north the Province should reach to Hudson's Bay, for there might yet be a great trade on that sea, now that steam had rendered its navigation easy during the few open months of summer. And it should not be forgotten that the nearest route to England for the produce of a considerable part of the North-west was through Hudson's Bay.

Mr. McMAHON said the Speech from the Throne had been the cause of considerable reflection to hon. members on both sides of the House, and he was rather amused at a little deflection it gave rise to on the part of the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Williams). He (the speaker) was not prepared for the remarks of that hon. gentleman, but he must come to the conclusion that the North-western Railway had something to do with them. (Laughter.) He thought there was great cause for congratulation in the abundant harvest with which the country had been blessed, and he was convinced that the criticisms of hon. members opposite with regard to that portion of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech were uncalled for. (Hear, hear.) One effect of the prosperous harvest had been a general revival of business. If there were not the unusual activity of previous years, it would owe to the fact that the late depression had made our people more cautious in business matters than formerly. The hon. member for Renfrew (Mr. Deacon) said he failed to see any improvement in the lumber trade in his section of the country; but the fact that timber lands had been recently sold to *bona fide* lumbermen was a much better evidence of the reviving prosperity of that interest than any expression of opinion on the part of that hon. member, even though he lived in the district, and gave most of his attention to law matters. (Laughter.) If, as Canadians, they had anything to be proud of, he thought it was of the provision made for those unfortunates who were unable to take care of themselves; and personally he was pleased at the allusion in the Speech to our asylums and charitable institutions. He was convinced that the exertions of our Government and people with regard to those institutions would compare favourably with those made by any other country in the world. The subject of railways had been frequently referred to during the debate. He could not coincide with the remarks made by the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Williams) in regard to subsidies to railways. The people of this country—those who came here fifty or sixty years ago, and by dint of hard work and untiring energy had gained competencies—were desirous that the present generation should not have to combat those difficulties against which they had to contend, and

were willing that a reasonable portion of the revenues should be devoted to the development of our territory. With regard to the Toronto and Ottawa Railway, he did not know whether, if the bonus had been voted by the city, he would have supported the grant of a subsidy for that line; neither was he prepared to say he would have voted to refuse it. He considered the remarks of a preceding speaker in reference to the presence of laymen in the Cabinet were uncalled for; so long as those composing the Government were fit and proper persons to discharge the duties incumbent upon them, it was immaterial whether they were lawyers or not. After expressing his pleasure at hearing that the immigration of late years was improving, the speaker went on to refer to our educational system. While he thought the new Model Schools would prove a great benefit, he could not conceal from himself the fact that a great many people, especially in the rural districts, had arrived at the conclusion that our school system is becoming too complicated and extensive, and that too much power was vested in the officials. (Hear, hear.) So strong was this feeling among some of his constituents, that they were discussing the advisability of starting schools of their own. The hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. Macdougall), in criticising the recent School Commission, had said it was the duty of the Minister to investigate such charges himself. Now, he (Mr. McMahon) was very glad that the head of the Education Department had not conducted the enquiry. Had he done so what would have been the result? The Opposition would have at once charged that his only object was to whitewash the defendants. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The matter was left to a fair and impartial judge, and while he was not prepared to say whether his decision was just or unjust, he was not prepared to endorse the unqualified condemnation of it by the hon. member for Simcoe. (Cheers.) He trusted the judges of the country were above suspicion. (Cheers.) Adverting to the Crooks Act, he thought it had given satisfaction, and that, in the hands of efficient and proper officials, it could be as effectually carried out as any other law on the Statute Book. He regretted very much the derogatory remarks made by the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Cameron) with reference to the magistracy. Our magistrates would compare well with those of any country, and much more favourably with those on the other side of the line. (Hear, hear.) If there were some illiterate persons among them, he had no doubt as many could be classed as friends of hon. gentlemen opposite as friends of hon. members on that side. (Cheers.) The hon. member for North Renfrew had called the Speech an extraordinary document containing nothing. It was strange, however, that the hon. gentleman could succeed in making a long speech about nothing. (Laughter.) In concluding he congratulated the hon. mover and seconder of the Address for the able manner in which they had discharged their duty. They were going on to improve themselves and the affairs of the country so that no benefit would accrue by a transfer of the reins of Government from gentlemen on this side to those on the other. (Cheers.)

Mr. BOULTER said the member for Hamilton had complained that the Government had departed from Mr. Blake's principles, but the truth was that Mr. Blake had departed from his own principles in regard both to the number of Ministers in the Ontario Cabinet and that of the House of Commons. He complained that while it was asserted in the Speech that a good price had been obtained at the last lumber sale, the House had no information as to the figure received.

Mr. PARDEE—The average price was \$200 per square mile.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe)—For how many square miles?

Mr. PARDEE said there were 275 or thereabouts.

Mr. BOULTER went on to charge that the Government paid too much attention to political considerations