

the chief executive office of the Government, and going over all and every department; by this means a large amount could be saved annually. This is not a new idea of mine. I adopted it the first time I was in the House, and attempted to show that £15,000 could be saved annually by a system of retrenchment. I could give the Board of Works employment. I could not find any thing that officer has to do for \$2,000 a year, except to set up an annual report. I proposed then, I propose now, that the Rail way should be connected with the Board of Works. The office of Post Master General might also be connected with it, for there is nothing incompatible in the building of roads and bridges with conveying the mails. The work would not be too much in a few hours each day; he could perform his business of these three departments. I do not see any sound economy in the speech; merely abolishing the office of Post Master General as being an officer of the Crown does not denote it. I hope may be disappointed, and that the Government will adopt a strict system of economy, that they will take action and fill up the gap between Moncton and Nova Scotia, and build Western Extension; his will ultimately bring about the union of the Maritime Provinces; if they take immediate action in the matter they will have my warm support. Another branch of the public service with which we might dispense, is the School inspection. An inspector travelling through the country is no improvement to education; it is only a waste of the public money. I trust that will occupy the attention of the Government, and they will alter the School system so far as inspection is concerned. There is an increased expenditure towards the militia contemplated. I hope the Government will pause before they increase the expenditure in that direction. They had better wait and see what will be the result of the termination of the war in the United States; whether they intend to keep up a standing army or not. I believe that as soon as this war is over they will disband a large portion of their army; they can throw off war as easily as they can throw off the obligations of war. If that will be the policy of our neighbours why should we keep ourselves in constant dread for fear of an invasion from that country? If they have no standing army in that country, and any difficulty took place, we would have timely notice, and could then prepare and drill the militia to defend our country, instead of wasting the time and labor of the country ascertaining who are the best marksmen; we had better spend our money on the roads of the country, and the increase of our population, by this means increasing our means of defence. We must not allow the time of this country to be wasted which is important to its growth, as it has been heretofore. I hoped the hon. mover of the address would have given some explanation in regard to Public Works, Retrenchment and Colonization, but not hearing any thing from him from the Government in reference to the matter I have attempted to express my views of what should be the policy of the Government. In reference to that part of the Speech concerning the conference at Quebec, I regret it will not be in the power of the Government to lay before the House full minutes of that select conference, for it is of vast interest to the people of this Province that they should have full minutes, memoranda, and the different divisions of that Conference regulating the destinies of these

British Colonies. If we could get full information, I think it would meet our further condemnation. So far as putting my veto upon the Confederation of the British North American Provinces as proposed in that scheme, I will give it my determined opposition. The constituency of this country have condemned that scheme, and I do not suppose this House will take any steps in regard to it; if it does it will meet with condemnation; outside of that I hoped they would have pronounced the policy I have suggested. I have suggested it in a friendly manner I do not stand here as the representative of any man, or set of men, but as the representative of the people; I will support measures and not men; I wish to support no captious opposition, but to give the Government a fair trial, and if they do well they shall receive my support.

Mr. OTTY.—I am surprised at the course the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gilbert) has taken. When the order of the House was to take up this address, it was to be taken up paragraph by paragraph. Four paragraphs have been passed, and then Mr. Gilbert gets up and opposes the whole speech in toto. I think the proper course would have been to have moved an amendment to any paragraph with which he could not coincide. I may be wrong in my views, for I am a novice in these matters, and expect to learn a great deal. Mr. Gilbert has been very discursive, and has touched upon a great many subjects. I do not think every thing a Government intend to do is foreshadowed in the speech; if it was so, the speech would be long enough to-day, and to-morrow also. I cannot understand the position Mr. Gilbert intends to hold. If he comes here as the leader of the Opposition it will surprise me, for I understood he was elected as an anti-Confederate, and was in favor of the Government. All these things are calculated to impress me with astonishment. He has gone into Western Extension, and finds nothing to prevent the Government from legislating on the subject. Has he read the facility bills, giving power to companies to build Western Extension? Under one of those Acts money has been expended, the line has been surveyed, and stock taken up. Attempts are now being made to secure the balance of the money in England. If any Government allows a body of men to undertake a great work of that kind, and then pass new Acts upon the subjects, there would be an end of all confidence in the Government of the country. I consider this a very proper expression in the speech, "But any immediate steps in this direction appear to be precluded by existing legislation." The members of the Government are present, and can defend the wording of the speech better than I can; but being the mover of the speech I felt called up to reply.

Hon. A. J. SMITH.—I thought this Speech would have passed without opposition. The Government do not intend to take up very many subjects, which will involve much time in their consideration. It is the desire of the members of the House to get home as soon as possible at this season of the year. We wish to take up only those subjects which the necessities of the country require, and we expect to introduce such measures as will commend themselves to your judgment. In regard to them, every man has a right to act as his sense of duty prescribes, and the Government do not ask for any favor more than their acts deserve. I did regret to listen to the speech of my hon. colleague, we having

in the late Government fought side by side, and I did not think his first act and vote would be in opposition to this Government. He asks why we did not submit some great scheme of colonization and retrenchment. Has he read that part of the Speech wherein it is stated that the "Estimates of the current year will also be submitted to you." They have been framed with as close a regard to economy as is consistent with a due provision for the requirements of the public services. (Mr. Gilbert—"I had reference to the reduction of salaries.") The Speech is no place to refer to the reduction of salaries; and I am satisfied the people of the country will give the Government a fair trial, which is more than Mr. Gilbert seems willing to do, for he has unequivocally shown himself to be in distinct opposition. He has shown a disposition not to give fair play. He has brought forward schemes which his own good sense will tell him it is impossible to carry out, and he opposes the Government because those schemes are not in the Speech. If we must politically differ—though I regret it, and am prepared for all objections—we may continue on terms of friendship if he desires it; but I say to him, that I think his constituents will not be satisfied with the course which he has taken in opposing the Government that has been in power for so short a time. Is my hon. colleague prepared to state—knowing the facts as he does—that there are no existing laws which will preclude immediate action for the completion and extension of the European and North American Railway? Has he examined the laws? I think he is aware of the fact that Mr. Livesey has made a proposition for the construction of the connection between Nova Scotia and Moncton. That proposition was accepted by the late Government, and is now on the Executive books of the country. (Mr. Gilbert—I was not aware of it.) The facility bill of last year promises and pledges the public faith of the Government, that any company which will form *bona fide* for the purpose of building those lines of Railroad, shall be entitled to an Act of Incorporation, and it will be our duty to carry out any work our predecessors have done, therefore we find it utterly impossible to take any immediate action for the accomplishment of this work. In regard to other matters, our time has been limited. We were sworn in on the first day of April and had three elections to run,—that of the Provincial Secretary was held as late as the 20th April; since then we have done all we could to press on the business, but we find it utterly impossible for us to consider everything requiring to be done in so short a space of time. In regard to some Branch Railroads, I look upon the legislation of last year as utterly worthless, brought in at that time simply for the purpose of aiding the Government through the Session. We find efforts have been made for the construction of Western Extension, but up to this time have not been successful. However, a company has been organized, and an Act of Incorporation prepared, and that company have rights under the law, therefore we cannot undertake the construction of that work as a Government measure. The pledged faith of the country has been given to Mr. Livesey and Mr. Parks. The Corporation of St. John have agreed to take stock to the extent of \$400,000. We are not justified in ignoring the existence of the company—violating the public faith and honor of the