

is unanimous—I do not know a gentleman in this House who is opposed to the construction of the road or to the aid for the construction—they will see fit to place the franchise in the hands of those who will construct the road. Therefore, I consider my course is quite consistent. As the debate has continued to a great length I do not think it well to prolong it. I intended to refer to the different Orders in Council passed at different dates giving these aids, and to the opinions of the Minister of the Interior in asking Council to grant them, but, as the hour is late and members must be tired of this discussion, I will defer it for the present.

Mr. WOODWORTH. I would not give the vote I am about to give in favor of the amendment of the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell) if I thought it would retard for one hour the building of this road, but knowing the history of this charter since the president had control of the majority of the stock, I sincerely believe, and indeed I cannot see how any unprejudiced mind in this House can believe otherwise, that if the charter is granted him, there will be greater delays than if it is refused, for this reason—the present president of this road has, as I showed this afternoon, had two years in which to do something to this road besides talk, and he has done nothing. I think myself, if the Government takes power to themselves now to build this road, they can construct it. There are parties outside of this House, there are parties in Canada, there are parties in the United States, who are ready to build this road. Everybody knows it is going to be a paying road. I have heard statements made here this afternoon, for the first time, that it was not going to be a very paying road. We who know something about it, know it is to be a paying road, that for hundreds of miles it goes through places which are already settled, and therefore it will pay capitalists to build the road. If I thought that by my vote I would retard building the road, I would not give it. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Ives), and several other hon. members, and notably the Minister of the Interior, thought that, if we voted for this amendment, it would retard the building of the road. Why, the best of evidence, in the hands of the Government, is that if the charter is extended, the same things will occur that have occurred in the past. The object has not been to build this road. I am sorry that this matter ever got here at all. I am sorry this dispute has arisen. I, Sir, did not seek it. If some hon. gentleman in this House who have spoken upon this subject had been as determined to see right and justice done, and this road built before this question got here, last spring, last fall, the first of this Session, as they have evinced in this House to-day, this question never would have got here at all. The Minister of Interior has stated that it was owing to some statement made by me that this dispute has arisen. He certainly does not remember the history of the way it got here. Did he not know that the member for West Toronto, was at the elbow and at the ear of nearly every member of this House, and especially of members opposed to the Government, giving them his version of the story, and showing them private letters? I am sure the Minister of Interior did know, he knows it now. He don't know? Has he not the papers in his office? He shakes his head. Then he did not consult the files of papers in his office on the North-West Central Railway, when he reported to the Council in favor of the extension of the land grant. Everybody knows that every head of a Department keeps his papers on any subject on a certain file; he has not them scattered all over the office, and he can place his hand upon that file by touching his bell at any moment, and if he did that he would really find there statements in regard to this matter which surely would have apprised him that there was something wrong about it. I say, then, that these members all know that the president of this

road was seeking out members of Parliament to give them his version of the story, and it has come out in evidence, and never been disputed that the editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the correspondent in this House, and the correspondent of the *Globe*, stated in letters to the leader of the Opposition, that the president of the board sought them out and volunteered these statements which have been published by the press. Mr. Beaty, a member of the Conservative party, a supporter of the Conservative Government, takes a private letter from a co-director, not only a co-director, but the promoter and the manager of the Bill through this Parliament and the Railway Committee in 1884, and goes quietly to the *Toronto Globe* correspondent, to the correspondent of the *Chronicle* of Halifax, Nova Scotia, to the correspondent of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and he tells them, according to themselves, that he does not want to speak in Mr. Woodworth's presence. When Mr. Woodworth arrives in the building, while he is whispering to them, he takes them out into the corridor and talks to them there, and they herald all through the country—and they had a right to do it to make a point against a political opponent—the statements made by this loyal Conservative president of the North-West Central Railway in regard to a brother member in this House, who has been voting on the same side as he has. The hon. member for North Perth (Mr. Hesson) and other gentlemen have taken this immaculate being to their bosom. They have no words of condemnation for him. The hon. member for North Perth knows, for he told me so, that he (Mr. Beaty) went to him with a letter last spring, and he has not a word to say about this—he, the staunch, steadfast, iron-bound, copper-fastened Liberal-Conservative in this House, the man who never was known to flinch in any dark hours of the Government's necessity, he, knowing that this, in a battalion, would, on the field of battle, entail death on the man who did it, knowing that it was an act as disloyal as anything that could be done in the world, as black, as indecent, as could be done—he has taken him to his bosom, he has surrounded him, and some of his friends with him, with their arms of love. And the member for Monck (Mr. McCallum), for whom everybody entertains a great respect on account of his age and experience, and his good common sense, did not see anything wrong. He says: What has the poor man done for two years? He had not a word to say about the violation of the principles of party fealty, of party fidelity, that has been winked out of sight. I am the aggressor, says the Minister of the Interior. Through what spectacles does the Minister of Interior look? Whose spectacles is he holding? Well, all I have got to say is, I hope they will become him better when he is older as a Minister than they do to-night. What kind of scales, what kind of weights, has he been using that he could not see no beam in the president's eye, but that he could see the mote in mine? I cannot understand such measure being meted out. I tell the Conservative Government here, I tell them now to their faces, there are fourteen of them, that, if such party infidelity, if such party treason, is not only condoned but is made much of, is commended, if the perpetrator is patted on the back, they will have very little party left and very little respect in this country or elsewhere. Does not everybody know it? Had I been guilty of that heinous offence that has been committed here in the light of day and not denied, Sir, there would not have been any punishment too great to be meted out to me, but, I, who have fought their battles on many a dark day, and many a dark night, in the hours of their darkest trial, when I gave all my profession, all the little ability that God has given me, what little strength God had given me, and with industry that knew no tiring, I gave all to them when they were on their backs and could not help themselves; and the reward I get from them is, this reward here to-night. Sir, all the presidents of the north-western railways that could fill this