

Constitutional Act, which, besides giving enumerated powers, gives a general power, with the precise declaration to what I have referred. They have freedom to reject land they deem not fairly fit for settlement, and to choose the best land elsewhere. They have perpetual exemption from taxation of their enormous property, a most monstrous provision in my opinion. Why! this monstrosity is not to last merely twenty years, which is to be the period of bondage in other respects, but it is to last for ever. No matter how wealthy the Company may be, how enormously lucrative, this institution is to be for all time to come free from all taxation in every place in which this Dominion can free it from taxation. It is to be free everywhere from Dominion taxation in all the territories both from Dominion and from territorial taxation, wherever the Dominion can give it freedom, and that is through all the fertile belt at any rate. It is to get its rails at cost. I am surprised at the hon. Minister. After glorifying himself so much upon that admirable purchase of steel rails, after recounting over and over again how much he gained for the country in the purchase, he says it is true he does not give over to this Syndicate what he wants to lay on his own track, but the balance, he says, I will hand over to you at cost and at four per cent. interest. I forget really how much he made, although we have heard it often enough to impress it on our memory, but certainly it was a very handsome present. But, Sir, why should not the rails be taken over at the market value? And why should the country not get the benefit of that value, whatever it is. Then there is to be freedom from duty on imports. Here is protection for you! I understand that those interested in some of the languishing industries of the Maritime Provinces and elsewhere have been looking ever since the hon. gentleman announced the speedy construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and hoping for the day to come when they should revive their industries and open their workshops to produce those things required in the construction of that road, and now we hear that the great advocates of protection, the inaugurators and perpetuators of the National Policy, have got this message for their unhappy manufacturers: You shall not be permitted to manufacture these things because you cannot manufacture them so cheaply as the Syndicate can buy them elsewhere, and whoever else may suffer, whoever else may have to pay higher prices than you may live, our good friends the Syndicate may have liberty to buy in the cheapest market and sell us afterwards in the dearest, and, that they may do so, we will give up the import duties on the goods they want. Then, Sir, there is freedom from taxation for the lands for the long term of twenty years. And that term of twenty years is from the time they acquire the lands, and, therefore, it is longer than twenty years from now. It is, perhaps, on the average, twenty-five years—nay, more than that. I am not at all certain that it may not be very easy to arrange to make it longer, because, by a convenient arrangement by which they do not take out the patents until they want to sell, they can keep them free from taxation until they choose to put them in the market, indefinitely, indeterminately—until it suits them to dispose of them. The hon. gentleman says, perhaps, it does look awkward at first sight; but if the Government, who own the lands, were to build the railway the lands would not have been subject to taxation, and why should they be when they are placed in the hands of the Syndicate. It does not seem to me that because the Government, in the interests of the country, and for the public good, could construct the railway, the Syndicate, who are getting the bargain to which I have referred, should have this privilege. Why is it turning the Syndicate into the Government—putting them in their places to a considerable extent. But, Sir, I say there is a difference between a private interest and the public interest. With the Government in possession of these lands, do you sup-

pose they would delay a day in selling them because they are exempt from taxation? Do you suppose that the possession of these lands, free from taxation would render them less earnest or less eager to sell? Not so. Their interest would be only to sell, and to sell rapidly. But the interest of the Syndicate is to make as much money as they can, and more money is to be made by delaying than by selling, their interest will be to delay, and to have as little expense as possible meantime. All their lands are exempted from taxation in the North-West Territories for a generation to come. What a discouragement this is to the settlers along the line of railway, to those who are settled on the homesteads, and pre-emptions alternating with these blocks of land which are to be the property of the Syndicate. We know the result of exemption from taxation. We saw it on a small scale in the city of Toronto not long ago. Our lawns there were exempted from taxation because it was supposed that it was a good thing, for the public, that there should be these open spaces in the city. Happily the exemption has now been removed; the proprietors of these lawns have to pay taxes upon them. The result is that they are putting them in the market. They said to themselves before, "We have nice lawns; we enjoy them very much; they are gradually increasing in value as other property in Toronto becomes more valuable, and we are paying no taxes. Other persons who are operating in lands are paying heavy taxes; we turn our land into lawns, we need pay no taxes, and we can afford to wait a long time, and make our profits free from taxes." That is the effect on a small scale, upon a man's mind, of exemption from taxation. That on a gigantic scale will be the effect of exemption on the Syndicate who can hold their lands from year to year for twenty years, without any drawback in the way of taxes. And for that the progress of this country is to be interfered with. There can be no greater obstacle to the progress of that country by the encouragement of other settlers than that large spaces of unoccupied lands should alternate with settler's farms. We, who are familiar with the early settlement of this country, all know the effect upon farmers holding even smaller areas—farms of 100 or 200 acres—by the intervention of unoccupied spaces between such farms; we know that the farmer's disadvantages are trebled because there is not continuous settlement; he lacks the joint fencing, the road work and the neighbor's assistance, and all those other things which increase his capacity for making his land valuable and productive. Now, add to the difficulty which exists in that respect, which the largeness of that area will enhance, at any rate, in a large degree, the fact that there is no power to impose municipal taxation on 25,000,000 acres of the choicest lands, those nearest to the railway, and you place a bar to progress and render it impossible to get over the difficulty; you say that the cost of roads and bridges, school, and other municipal taxes will have to be imposed on the settlers, to enable the worthy Syndicate to hold their lands until the reduced labors of those settlers shall have sufficiently increased the unoccupied areas in value to induce the millionaires, the holders of the lawns of the North-West, to turn them into money. Why, Sir, it was only last year in the discussion of this subject when we objected to the speculator holding land, when we said to the hon. First Minister that settlement would be impeded by areas of land being held by persons who were not bound by conditions of settlement, that he answered us by this very argument. He said: "They will be compelled to sell and settle because they will be taxed into it. Municipal taxes will compel them to do it, and therefore your fears are void." That was his answer to our argument; but where is that answer in the face of this contract? As to the 25,000,000 of the choicest land next to the railway, the only thing the hon. gentleman could bring forward to prove that great injury would not be done by not