

whereas on reference to the journals of the House he found the majority was fifteen. In the same Minute of Council it was stated that the terms agreed to were "directory rather than mandatory," but the fact was they were mandatory. In order that the House might understand the subterfuges resorted to by the Government he would call attention to the manner in which the negotiations had been carried on. In the Minute of Council of the 8th of July there appeared this passage :—

"The British Columbia Government had also complained that the commencement of the works of constructions had not been made within the time provided. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, however, giving an informal opinion that the terms as to commencement were sufficiently and substantially kept by the active prosecution of the surveys."

In a subsequent despatch, however, they completely contradict this statement, as follows :—

"When the present Government assumed office, they found that the British Columbia Government had protested against the non-commencement of works of construction on the railway on or before the 20th day of July, 1873, as agreed to in the eleventh section of the Order in Council relating to the Union. They also found that the means taken by the late Dominion Government for proceeding with the works of construction had totally failed, although the works preliminary to an actual commencement had been prosecuted with all possible despatch."

In the former despatch the Government of British Columbia were denounced although at that time they had a large majority in the Legislature, and were popular among the people. With reference to another statement in one of the despatches he had the authority of Governor TRUTCH for saying that he never gave his assent to nothing more or less than the terms agreed upon between the Province and the Dominion. He would next call attention to a subject which would in all probability excite some little notice. In the Minute of Council of the 23rd July appeared the following statement :—

"It must be remembered that British Columbia earnestly petitioned the Dominion Government to modify the terms of Union in its own favor in relation to the construction of the graving dock. The Dominion Government cordially assented to provide the money for the construction of the work, instead of abiding by the agreement to guarantee merely the Provincial bonds for ten years, as provided by the terms of Union. This at once shows the liberality of the Dominion Government, and their willingness to consider and meet exceptional circumstances wherever they existed. And this manifestation of liber-

ality on the part of this Government, they conceive should have been reciprocated in other matters by the Provincial Government."

The extent of the liberality shown by the Dominion Government in this matter might be learnt from the fact that the graving dock would cost \$500,000, and all the money that the Dominion Government proposed to give towards it was \$250,000. But that was not all. While the late Government agreed to give \$250,000 to aid in the construction of that dock, and the present Government agreed to carry out that arrangement. He was sorry for the sake of the credit and honor of this country to have to say that the present Prime Minister had repudiated that agreement. And, yet, he had the audacity to state in this despatch to the Imperial Government that the Dominion Government had agreed to provide the money for the construction of that work, and took credit for their liberality. One of the amusing portions of this despatch was as follows :—

"There is every reason to believe now that a majority of the people of Columbia would accept the propositions previously made. Judging from a petition sent from the mainland, signed by 644 names (a copy of which petition is enclosed), there is almost an entire unanimity there in favor of these proposals, and assurances were given very lately by gentlemen of the highest position on the Island that the course of the Local Government would not meet general approval there."

That statement he knew personally to be untrue and it was merely made for the purpose of attaining an object. The despatch continued :—

"An application was made by one prominent gentleman, an ex-member of Parliament, to the Government here, to know if the proposals made would still be adhered to, he pledging himself to secure their acceptance by the bulk of the people."

He was amused when he read that statement. The gentleman alluded to came to British Columbia, and thought he could carry everything before him, but he soon found that he dared not make any public attempt to do what he had promised the First Minister to do. There was another matter out of which a great deal of capital had been made by the Government and their organs. He had been told that originally British Columbia only asked for a waggon road. Now, what did that mean? British Columbia spent \$1,000,000 to construct 500 miles of road through the interior of the Province. That would be equivalent to about \$20,000 a mile. Supposing the cost