

country has endorsed it in the elections which have transpired.

**Mr. MACKENZIE.** It did not in West Toronto.

**Mr. BEATY.** It did not in West Toronto? It certainly did not endorse the policy of the Opposition. The policy, I repeat, is, therefore, established not merely as the policy of the party, but as the policy of the country. Now the question of the Pacific Railway contract, reference to which is made in the Speech from the Throne, is, I presume, the most important question of the Session. The policy on the subject of that great undertaking, the colossal conception of which will produce a trans-continental railway across Canada, is one which cannot be called a new or novel one. The compact entered into by the Provinces when Confederation was formed looks to this policy, and, I think, I may safely declare, as is intimated in the Speech from the Throne, that Parliament is committed to the construction of the line. I may add, that both Governments, the late Government and the present Government, have acted on the principle that the road must be built, the only difference between the two Administrations being as to when it shall be built, and what means are to be adopted for the purposes of its construction. The country at all events by the action of its public men, is committed to the building of the road, and certainly, if it can be constructed at a reasonable, a comparatively moderate expense to the country, the promise that it shall be built—if Confederation is to be maintained—should be faithfully and honestly carried out. There should be no room for disputation between the Provinces interested in this great work, and the Dominion Government; and all the people should join with heart and hand in the prosecution of the enterprise, which will not only promote harmony and good will in all sections of the Dominion, but will enable us to develop these vast resources, that great wealth, which we know our country possesses, and will form a tangible, a material bond, uniting the old Provinces with the new, and strengthening our loyalty to the Crown, and our love for Canada, its constitution and institutions. In reference to this question of the Pacific Railway, the Government can, as I understand it, in the prosecution of the work, act in one of three ways. They can build the road themselves with their own officers, and the direct expenditure of public money; they can let it out in sections to contractors, by tender, or they can adopt the mode presented in the Speech from the Throne, under which the construction of the road *en bloc*, can be given to a company, the company to receive grants in land, in money, or in both. The question arises, now, by what means shall the building of this great road be accomplished? How can it be best constructed, with a view to promoting the general welfare of the country? I think the Government has tried the first and second plans. It is about time to try the giving over of the road to a company with a grant of money for its construction. We are told that the contract, involved in the carrying out of this last plan, has been entered into, and that Parliament is to be asked to approve of that contract. All we are asked to do just now, however, is, not to endorse the details which may be presented to the House, but to express our approval of the policy that that this work should be constructed by a company, and that that company should have the power, first, to build the road within a limited period, and then to work it for a limited period afterwards. Now, it may be asked, what are the advantages of this general policy of constructing the road by a company? One advantage, and I think a very great one, is this: that the country will know, under the terms of the contract, what the extent of our liabilities, in the granting of lands and in the expenditure of money upon the undertaking will be. The giving of lands for the purpose of constructing this road cannot be a burden to this country, or a matter at which any one can complain, because these lands, as far as we are concerned, are comparatively

**Mr. BEATY.**

worthless now, and can only be made of value by the opening up of the North-West by the railway. There is another advantage arising out of the adoption of this plan. It is this: We will not only have the expenditure of the Dominion upon the undertaking limited, but we will have, in consequence of the contract entered into, large sums of money brought into the country from independent sources and spent upon the road. We will therefore have, besides the advantages which are accruing to the country by reason of the causes I have already mentioned, the additional force in increasing the wealth of the country—a large amount of money brought in from outside and independent sources. A great deal of money must be brought in, because the company can scarcely be expected to realize from the land, if we may judge from Ministerial statements as to the period at which this road is to be completed, a sufficient sum with which to carry on operations. There is another feature of a very important character, in connection with this matter, and that is the one of immigration. I would not rely wholly on European emigration for the peopling of the North-West Territory. The immigration question is not so important to my mind as the fact of our ability to send the youth of the several provinces to that country, where they may enjoy, under our own flag and our own institutions, the advantages which they enjoyed in the Eastern Provinces, while having, at the same time, abundant scope for their energies, industry and intelligence. I think it is of the first importance that the youth of this country, instead of going to the United States—they have, no doubt, gone to that country, but to nothing like the extent sometimes claimed—should have a field in which their best energies can be employed and where they can secure homesteads, which they cannot so easily obtain in the Eastern Provinces, in consequence of the increasing value of land and pressure of population in them. But there is still left the great fact that this Policy will do most to make those lands valuable and productive—will do most for the development of our resources—that the hope of gain from them, in connection with the Railway, will induce the company to bring in settlers who will people our great North-West Territory. If that is done, the Government will relieve themselves and the country from a very important task, which hitherto has been only moderately successful, that of bringing into this country emigrants from the older countries of Europe. While we, in this country, enjoy the blessings of prosperity to a large extent to-day, every person knows that the bringing in from older countries of the bone and sinew of their population, and of a certain portion of their wealth, which the emigrants possess, is a great benefit to our country; and whilst the immigration was not so large last year, a better, a wealthier class came in than that hitherto observed. This country only wants women and men.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. And children.

**Mr. BEATY.** Get the men and women, and I am not afraid of the children following. The emigrants and money, coming into the North-West, will promote the welfare of the whole community; and, I am quite sure, that anything that accomplishes that result will be beneficial to the older Provinces, the Eastern provinces of the Dominion. I do not propose to detain you, nor need I, by dealing with details in reference to this great undertaking, but I would simply say, the Government, it seems to me, have done wisely, in this matter, and I think the country will endorse the policy which has committed this undertaking to a company for the construction and working of the road for the period usually understood as designed by the contract. It may be said, coming to another point, that if the Government should construct and work the road in as economical a manner as they have shown their capacity to do in regard to the Intercolonial, it might have been left in their hands. But the experience of former years and former Governments