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words: Finally, they -- That is, Her Majesty's Government.

-- anticipate that the interests of every province of British North America will be more advanced by enabling the wealth, credit and intelligence of the whole to be brought to bear on every part than by encouraging each in the contracted policy of taking care of itself, possibly at the expense of its neighbour.

In other words, the vision held out in this despatch to the people of British Columbia was that if they joined the Dominion of Canada, the whole of the wealth, credit and intelligence of the people of Canada would be applied to every part, and we must presume that it would be applied equally to every part. And then the contrast is held up of what might be expected if the union did not take place -- a condition under which every part would be trying to take care of itself, probably at the expense of its neighbour -- which in this case would be the adjoining territory or the adjoining provinces. The whole idea was one of the benefit to be got by co-operative action as compared with individual or separate action.

Then the despatch goes on to say:

Most especially is this true in the case of internal transit. It is evident that the establishment of a British line of communication between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans is far more feasible by the operations of a single government responsible for the progress of both shores of the continent than by a bargain negotiated between separate, perhaps in some respects rival, governments and legislatures.

In going through these papers and in reading the debates which took place in the House of Commons in 1871 I find that underlying this idea of confederation was another thought, running like a thread through the whole fabric -- the thought of a British line of communication (this is the first instance in which it is put in words) which would connect the empire of Great Britain through her North American possessions, and, by way of steamships, to her Australian and Asiatic possessions. I will, however, with your permission, leave the Imperial aspect of the question until a little later on. The despatch affirms that it will be far more feasible to secure this British line of communication under the operation of a single government than it would be by a bargain made between separate and perhaps in some respects rival governments and legislatures. In other words, the idea in the minds of British statesmen was that this line of communication was necessary for Imperial interests, and that it was far more likely of realization through a union of the British possessions in North America under one government than it would be if there were a number of governments, with each of whom some company, or whoever undertook to build a line of railway, would have to negotiate. The language of the despatch is, "a single government responsible for the progress of both shores of the continent."

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