

I do not wish to weary the House, but I will throw out this challenge—I will meet any gentleman at any time and in any place to discuss in the face of a free and intelligent people everything in relation to that transaction. I desire to vindicate the character of gentlemen who are not here, viz: the directors of Inter-Oceanic Railway Company in Toronto, and the Directors of the Canada Pacific Railway Company in Montreal. Who are these gentlemen who are described as lunatics by the Minister of Finance, for the hon. gentleman said that the scheme of a Canadian Pacific Railway was an insane project? Who are the lunatics who are ready to engage in that so-called insane project? If the project of the Government was an insane one, why were the directors of these companies ready to fight to the death to obtain possession of the work? Why were Hon. Mr. McMMASTER, Mr. W. H. HOWLAND, late President of the Dominion Board of Trade, Mr. McINNES, Mr. CUMBERLAND, Mr. WALTER SHANLY, the Postmaster General, the Minister of Customs, Hon. DAVID CHRISTIE and Sir HUGH ALLEN, all anxious to gain command of the scheme. I need not say more to vindicate the late Government for having engaged in that so-called insane project. I think the hon. Minister of Finance unnecessarily widened the discussion which took place on the last occasion; but as he did so I am bound to deal with the statements that hon. gentleman has put before the country, and which, because of the position held by the hon. Minister of Finance, I must deal with in order to vindicate my late colleague. The hon. gentleman, I think, forgot somewhat what was due to the House when he said:—

“He called the House to bear in mind, because they would have occasion before long to make further investigation into that matter, that for the last fifteen years the railways of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had engaged the earnest attention of the hon. member for Cumberland, with what result let the report of Mr. C. J. BRYDGES and still more the answer of Mr. CARVELL show.”

The hon. Minister of Finance, in another portion of his speech, said:

“On coming into office he found these railways greatly run down and very badly managed; and, therefore, a large amount

will be necessary to put them in a state of efficiency.”

That is a challenge which I stand here prepared to accept to the fullest possible extent, and I claim that I shall be able to show, out of the mouths of his own witness, that the statement he has ventured to make—that he found the railways run down and in a bad condition—is as inaccurate as it is possible for any statement to be made by any gentleman. I shall be prepared to prove, out of the mouth of the man selected by the hon. gentleman to throw all the discredit that could be thrown on myself and my colleagues, that the utterances of the hon. Finance Minister are utterly and entirely unfounded in fact. I am prepared to show that if there is a man they could not afford to send on that mission, that man is C. J. BRYDGES. It is painful for me to say anything to wound the feelings of any one. It is so when it affects the hon. Finance Minister who is present to defend himself, but it is doubly painful to me when the gentleman is absent, and I only do so in the discharge of a public duty. But Mr. BYDGES has a Minister of the Crown to give him a certificate of character in the strongest and most glowing terms, and I will only be doing what the House will say I am justified in doing, when I challenge proof from this report that his statements are unfounded. They could not employ Mr. Bridges on this mission without a loss of public character, because for twelve years he had been denounced by the Bible of their party, the *Globe*, of Toronto, and held up to the execration of the people of this country, not only as a man utterly unqualified to discharge the duties of manager of a railway, but also as a man whose integrity could not be relied upon, and as one engaged in every job that has impoverished the Grand Trunk Railway. He was denounced as being so utterly incompetent for his office that they had to keep a standing column of the *Globe* for publishing a list of the smash-ups and crash-ups resulting through his mismanagement on the Grand Trunk Railway. If they wish any intelligent man in this country forever after to believe that their statements in reference to any public man are not a tissue of lies, I ask how they can place that man in office. I do not endorse their statements; I did not believe them then; I do not

*Hon. Mr. Tupper.*