

to the amount of \$2,948 of mowing, reaping, and threshing machines, and expended \$2,026 in playing cards—this will give us some idea of the habits of the people, and the business they are engaged in. While I feel we must do everything reasonable to satisfy British Columbia, we must not make ourselves ridiculous. While I am in favor, and I believe this country has the ability to construct a Pacific Railway in a reasonable time, I am not prepared to fritter away these vast sums of money on totally useless undertakings. Let the Government make an exhaustive survey of the country (which they are doing as fast as can be done), then select the proper place for the terminus, and go to work with no uncertain sound to construct a railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and they shall have my hearty support; but why spend our means on useless pieces and leave the main line untouched, is more than I can comprehend, without it is to do something contrary to the late Government policy, which was the only feasible one. However, I am free to admit I am not much surprised, as there is not the talent in this Government necessary to make a nation. Well might a writer in the *Nation* say, who is supposed to be Goldwin Smith, as he was interested in that paper, that the Pacific scandal spoiled a statesman, and raised up another in his stead that never could be one. This Government, to my mind, is an incapable one—I said so last session, and I have more reason to say so this. Every move they make fully convinces me that I am right in the opinion I hold, that they have not either the honesty or the ability necessary for the situation. However, I hope this House will resist this measure, and save this country from this enormous unnecessary outlay merely for hush money, as the original terms of Union will have to be carried out besides. The Premier of British Columbia, a few days since, stated in his place in Parliament that there was no relaxation of the terms, only a little extension of time, for which we are to throw away about \$4,000,000, and do them little or no good. The thing is too wild and should be defeated. If it could possibly do any good more than

the spending the money in their midst, we might consider it, but the road being built there could not be enough work for a train a month over the road. I do not object to expending money upon the Pacific slope, upon a railway running east, and will be quite prepared that the Government should proceed vigorously with the work in that direction, as that will be in keeping with the spirit of Canada, which is ultimately to construct an all rail route from the Pacific to the Atlantic. But this Vancouver Island Railway is not needed, and will cost a very large sum; this with the Georgian Bay Branch, the Pembina Branch, the Thunder Bay Branch, altogether costing about twenty millions of dollars, and then we are not a mile on the way to the Pacific by an all rail route. In view of the circumstances I do think it time to pause before we are ruined in almost useless work. I therefore have great pleasure in supporting the amendment for the three months' hoist. (Cheers.)

HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST said the bill now before the House had been accepted by the Commons as one of those necessities bequeathed this Government by their predecessors. When British Columbia was annexed to this Dominion, it was found necessary to enter into a treaty by which we bound ourselves within a certain time to build a railroad from the Pacific to connect with the railway lines of the Dominion. But the works were not proceeded with according to agreement and the bargain was not kept with British Columbia. Then that Province had some reason to complain that we had not carried out our part of the obligations. They brought their case before Lord Carnarvon, as the British Government had been a party to the treaty, and they complained they had not been fairly treated by Canada. In accordance with the noble Lord we took into consideration the strong claims of British Columbia, and this bill was the result of the compromise that had been effected. We had been told that this country was not able to bear the expense which this Pacific route would entail. The ability of this Dominion to carry out the present was certainly not less than its ability to carry out the former arrange-