

be used that the original policy was not a sound one. There is too much reason for supposing that such a course as that was pursued, and the consequence has been that the country has lost largely. I am glad that this Government are going to assume a scheme in every way a noble, national, wise and prudent one which will relieve the taxpayers of the burden which this work must entail and also fill the North-West with a numerous population. My hon. friend from Ottawa advises that nothing further should be done towards building the road in British Columbia. Does the hon. Senator mean to repudiate the agreement with British Columbia and does he reflect the views of the party to which he belongs?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I speak my own views only.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Then in what position does the hon. gentleman place himself! Has the policy of the Government for the last five years been a grand deception upon the people of this country and upon the people of British Columbia? Why were we spending millions of dollars of the public money, during a time of depression, west of the Rocky Mountains? Was this all a farce? If my hon. friend is sincere now, if the policy he enunciates now was his policy when he was a member of the late Government, in what position does he place that Government before the country?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I said that I did not speak the sentiments of the Government; that I merely spoke my own.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I have never seen a gentleman who occupied a prominent position in any Government placed in such an unfortunate situation. Now, my hon. friend has also stated that not only are the Government about to earnestly assume the construction of this great work under circumstances which will very materially impose new burdens on the people, but they are changing the line so as to endeavor to find out the most costly route. I understood my hon. friend to allude to the change of route in Manitoba!

*Hon. Mr. Miller.*

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I made no reference to lines anywhere.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—If I am mistaken I am very glad that I misunderstood the hon. gentleman. I do not intend further to trespass upon the attention of the House, but I could not allow the remarks which have fell from the hon. gentleman beside me, (Mr. Scott), to pass without my protest. I hope this country will prove true to the mission upon which it is engaged, and although there is a dark cloud long overhanging our horizon, I believe that under such a wise policy as we are now initiating in regard to the stimulation of our national industries and the construction of this great work, with prudence and patience we may be able yet to work through to a satisfactory end. That must be the desire of every man who listens to me, and not that we should be untrue to the pledges that we have made; not that we should abandon any portion of the work after having spent so much money upon it, but that we should persevere to the end and reach the consummation which we all desire—to unite the Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific by iron bonds. My hon. friend has gone out of his way to throw ridicule on the idea that we should hope for the trade from Asia. He forgets that when this road is built we will have the shortest line across the continent. He forgets that the empire to which we belong is the most powerful nation in the world, that her greatest possessions are in the east, and, therefore, that our road would possess advantages in that respect which would not be possessed by the trans-continental highway of our great neighbor. In that respect the comparison which is instituted is not a fair one. I am sorry to see my hon. friend, after years of persistent committal to a policy which he must have believed at the time was good for the country, get up so soon after having thrown off the shackles of office, and repudiate all his former utterances. My brief protest against his remarks is only so brief because I could not any longer trespass on the patience of the House at this late hour of the session.

Hon. Mr. McLELAN—I do not rise to discuss the Pacific Railway policy, past or present, but to express my amazement